The Long Island FISHERMAN

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SEPTEMBER 14th, 1978 ★ Volume 13, Number 37 ★ *13th Year of Publishing* ★ FIFTY-CENTS

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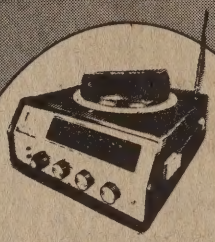

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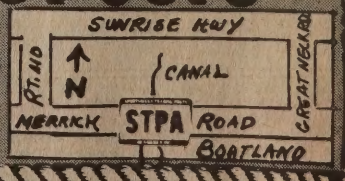

The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

VOL. 13. NO. 37 SEPTEMBER 14, 1978

Features:

Fish Talk:
MR. JAWS ..... Dr. W. A. Muller 6

Sinker Bouncing:
EARLY FALL FLOUNDER ..... Matt Ahern 9

Surf Side:
SPLIT DAY ..... Herb Buch 10

FISHERMAN TIPS ..... Fred Guardineer 12

NATIONAL SCENE ..... Al Ristori 13

NORTH SHORE HARBORS ..... Don Avondolio 14

Shark Basics:
THE END GAME ..... Barbara Sands 16

Departments:

Boating 4
Tide & Solunar Tables 8
Fishing Reports 20
Classified Ads 40

COMING NEXT WEEK:

Surf Side:
BRIDGE WORK

About the Cover—

This 318 pound bluefin tuna was caught south of Block Island by Mitchell Zetlin (left) on Walter Kaprielian's Blue Beard out of Henry Colombi's Star Island Yacht Club. Photo by John Kaprielian.

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BOATING

BASIC BOATING CLASSES

The Great South Bay Power Squadron will conduct two fall Basic Boating classes are FREE of charge, in the interest of promoting safe boating. One class will be in the Sayville High School on Brook Street. Classes will begin on September 18, at 8 PM.

The second class will be held in the J.F.K. Elementary School on Woodland Dr., East Islip, with registration on September 19, at 8 PM.

The course is a must for new or prospective boat owners and a great refresher course for the "Old Salts." For more information, call Lt. Jack Higham at 516-581-6268.

FREE BOATING COURSE

College Point Power Squadron will offer its FREE Safe Boating Course again this fall, with registration on Tuesday, September 19, at 8 PM. Classes will be held on Tuesday evenings at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 157-16 65th Avenue in Flushing.

The free course will take approximately 12 weeks and is open to all people over the age of 12 who are interested in safe boating. Ownership of a boat is not required.

FLOTILLA 12-1 USCG

Flotilla 12-1 U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, will soon offer a course in fundamentals of boating.

Classes will be held at Knights of Columbus Hall, 42-18 31st Ave., Astoria, Queens, on Mondays, starting September 25, 1978 at 7:30 p.m. There is a registration fee of $12 to defray cost of materials. The course will consist of 12 lessons covering boat handling, knots, engines, buoys, rules of road, emergency signals, first aid, weather, piloting, radio, and more.

For more info, contact Ron Braut, Public Relations Officer (212) 726-1764.

POWER SQUADRON TO CONDUCT FREE BOATING COURSE

Commander Edward C. Muller of Huntington's Neptune Power Squadron, has announced the Fall Boating Course schedule. Registration for the free course is at 8 PM, Monday, September 18, at John Glenn High School, Elwood Road, East Northport; and at 8 PM, Wednesday, September 20, at Walt Whitman High School, West Hills Road, Huntington Station. Classes will begin on the same night as registration. Late registration will also be accepted before classes the following week. The same course will be offered at both schools. The Neptune Squadron has offered these 10 week courses to boating enthusiasts for over 35 years.

FLOTILLA 13 BOATING COURSE

Youngsters interested in taking a Young Boatman's Safety Course may enroll for the course at East Islip Library, off Montauk Highway, on September 28 at 7 PM.

Young adults aged 10 through 15 must take the course, sponsored by the USCGA Flotilla 13, and earn a safety certificate before they may lawfully operate a mechanically propelled boat alone on New York waters.

The course consists of four basic units and is designed to be taught in two-hour sessions. All course material based on the boating safety handbook **"Make Sure—Make Shore"** will be furnished to youngsters taking the course. Additional information may be obtained by calling 567-6152.

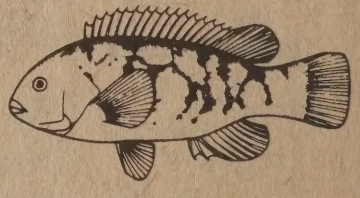
SAFE BOATING AND SEAMANSHIP SKILLS

Flotilla #22-09 of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary is offering a FREE, 13-lesson course in Safe Boating and Seamanship skills.

Lessons will be held on Wednesday evenings from 8 to 10 PM, in the Hicksville Public Library, 169 Jerusalem Avenue, Hicksville (one block south of Old Country Road). Registration will be on Wednesday, September 13 between 8 and 9:30 p.m. Classes will begin on Wednesday, September 20, 1978 at 8 PM.

Concurrent registration will also be held for the required New York State Young Boatmen's Safety Course, ages 10 through 15. This course will consist of four lessons of approximately two hours each.

Those interested in boating are invited to attend. It is not necessary to own a boat to participate. For further information, call 935-1309.



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FISH TALK
with Dr. William A. Muller

MR. JAWS
★ Part Two ★

DOUBTING THOMAS TAKE HEED! In Part I, we attempted to convince you that white sharks are found in Long Island waters and that they are a very dangerous species of shark because they selectively feed on mammals when mammals are available for food. For the most part, that means whales and porpoises but can include seals and man, too. If you continue to doubt this, then beware when you're in the water, because life is filled with many ironies!

HOW SHARKS FEED! Sharks are fish and hence they feed the same way that other fish feed. The primary stimulation is vibration. If you throw out a plug into the inky darkness some night searching for bass, blues, and weaks, the plug will rock, rattle, and roll sending out vibrations that the predators can pick up at some distance. They will zero in on the vibrations. When they are close enough, smell and vision may play the final role in stimulating an attack. Sharks are members of a primitive group of fishes that have cartilage instead of bone. Cartilage is a pre-bone material. It's found in your ear lobe and nose, for example, and provides strength and flexibility at the same time. Bony fishes evolved a little later. The sharks have existed in our oceans virtually unchanged for almost four hundred million years! If that isn't a success story, then I don't know what is! The development of the sensory system in fish came about very early and so sharks possess this ability. It was essential for predators to pick up the presence of prey and for prey to sense when predators were on the hunt. It was a much more important mechanism of survival than the specialized features of muscle-operated gill covers, bony skeletons, and sophisticated eyes: all features of modern fish.

THE ATTACK! Most sharks lack the speed and endurance to attack healthy fish. They sometimes work together to herd, confuse, and attack healthy, able-bodied fish—but one-to-one attacks are difficult. Thus, the shark is attuned to hunting the sick, the old, the lame, the fragile, and the injured. The thrashings or uneven swimming pattern of an injured fish is the signal to attack. If the prey is bleeding, this too, will be sensed when the shark approaches. Sharks have poor vision, by and large, and although they will feed by sight when water is clear and the shark is close enough, this sense is of minor importance. Most sharks, however, are limited to these senses. The white shark adds another dimension to its senses. Since the white shark feeds on mammals, it has evolved the ability to sense heat. Thus, although the white still responds primarily to vibrations it can sense the creature's smell, see it, and sense the heat that a mammal produces.

BLUE WATER, WHITE DEATH. Perhaps the best tribute I have ever seen to the power and beauty of the great white was the movie, **Blue Water, White Death.** I say beauty because there is an innate beauty—albeit raw and savage—to any creature that succeeds at its job. The lion, tiger, and white shark are efficient and exact in their execution of predation. In this film, if you haven't seen it, a group of film-makers attempt to find and photograph a great white shark. Their initial strategy is to follow the whaling boats in the southern Pacific because packs of sharks are known to feed on the carcasses of whales killed by whalers. They find the whalers and the sharks, but do not find any whites. They swim in the water with dozens of large sharks from ocean blues to white-tipped sharks to hammerheads. They have the experience of being surrounded by these sharks while the fish are in a feeding frenzy. They swim with the sharks without cages. Although the sharks are shown on film to be large and extremely agitated, they were never in any real danger. They found that by poking the approaching sharks with a blunt instrument, that most often the sharks were discouraged. At no time during many incidents, did the frenzied sharks ever pose what could be called a real threat. They continued to film, at close range, the sharks doing their thing. They traveled from ocean to ocean and each time the experience was repeated. They found no white sharks and they were never really in any danger from abundant large sharks of all species. Simply stated, the sharks really only wanted the dead carcasses of the whales and although they were very excited and willing to sink their teeth into almost anything, they were easily discouraged by the divers.

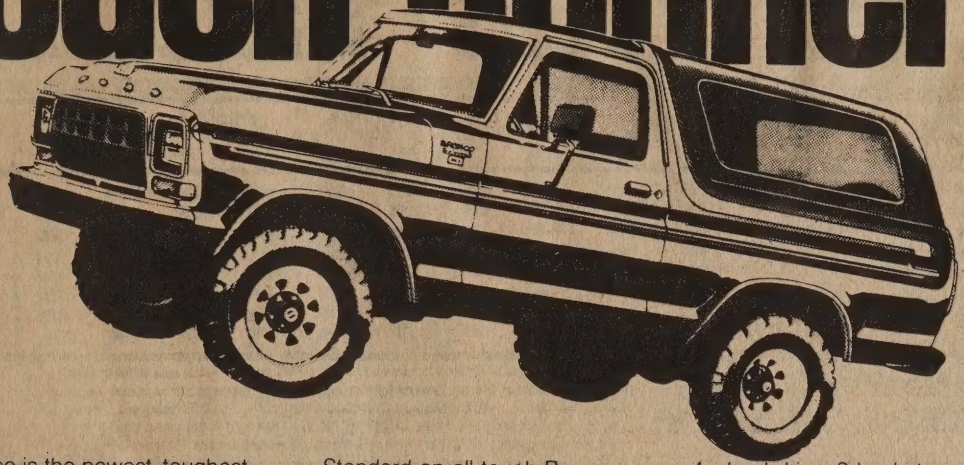
ALMOST READY TO GIVE UP. There came a time, when they had traveled almost around the world in search of the great white, that the group was almost totally discouraged. Again in the Southern Hemisphere, they heard of white sharks being in the area. They anchored the ship near a reef. They were actually quite close to shore. They dangled chunks of large fish and pieces of domestic livestock over the side of the vessel. They chummed liberally with chunks of fish, meat, and dried blood; then they waited. In the quiet heat and bright sun of the warm region, they lounged around the vessel, prepared their equipment, and waited for sharks to appear. Days went by without the appearance of any sharks. Then, the ship was suddenly jolted by something. A camera man was shooting the crew relaxing in the shade of the ship's superstructure, when suddenly the image bounced in response to the jolt. Everyone ran to one side of the ship just in time to see the shark making another pass. If you think that much of **Jaws** I was contrived, then you will have to see this movie. Sure, the shark in the movie showed vengeance and other human-like traits which are impossible for a shark to have; but the rest of it—the way the beast attacked—was accurate. The crew of that vessel watched as the white shark approached the ship at full speed; then it raised its head out of the water (the only shark to do so because of its predilection for mammals) and slammed into the hull of the ship while it attacked a hunk of something hanging over the side. The events of the next hour cannot properly be described—they must be seen. The savagery of the creature; its strength, its speed were remarkable. Water was flying in all directions as the sharks (the first was joined by another white) attacked again and again, oblivious to the vessel. The crew decided to film the activities of the white underwater and so they lowered a cage constructed of aluminum pipe. I do not recall the diameter of the pipe, but it was at least several inches in diameter. The diver and his camera went over the side into the cage against the protests of some of the crew. However, they decided that they had come this far and they could not run away from the filming of the shark. The diver was scared and so were the folks who remained topside, and as it turned out, their fears were justified.

The white shark attacked the cage. The fish was about eighteen feet long and within minutes, it virtually demolished the cage. It became wrapped up in one of the heavy ropes and cables that secured the cage. The white became enraged when it was caught and its thrashing nearly pulled the cage free of the cables! The crew was unable to retrieve the diver; and it was obvious that he was injured, crumpled in a heap at the bottom of the cage. It was indeed fortunate that the crew was eventually able to free the shark and the diver was retrieved, for in a few more minutes, the cage would have been torn free and the diver lost.

I watched in astonishment as the pair of sharks relentlessly made pass

(Continued on page 36.)

Beach Runners



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HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR.	6:20	6:46	6:59	7:26	6:57	7:19	7:47	8:10	10:11	10:33	9:37	10:02	8:08	8:35	9/14
FRI.	7:13	7:36	7:55	8:20	7:50	8:12	8:39	9:03	11:04	11:28	10:31	10:56	7:01	7:24	9/15
SAT.	8:02	8:24	8:46	9:09	8:38	9:00	9:28	9:54	11:52	—	11:22	11:47	7:48	8:13	9/16
SUN.	8:49	9:09	9:34	9:56	9:27	9:47	10:15	10:42	12:16	12:37	—	12:11	8:38	8:51	9/17
MON.	9:33	9:56	10:21	10:43	10:15	10:36	11:04	11:29	1:02	1:28	12:26	12:56	8:24	9:47	9/18
TUE.	10:18	10:40	11:07	11:31	11:04	11:24	11:51	—	1:45	2:09	1:24	1:43	10:11	10:33	9/19
WED.	11:03	11:28	11:55	—	11:52	—	12:20	12:40	2:27	2:48	2:11	2:32	10:59	11:19	9/20
THUR.	11:50	—	12:18	12:45	12:17	12:43	1:11	1:31	3:09	3:29	3:00	3:21	11:46	—	9/21

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehoboth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	—0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	—0 08
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	—0 03
Saugatuck River	—0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point	—1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	—0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	—0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 26
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 19
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	—0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Harbor	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

9/3	6:27	7:31
9/8	6:32	7:22
9/13	6:38	7:14
9/18	6:43	7:05
9/23	6:48	6:56
9/28	6:53	6:47

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
9/2	9/10	9/16	9/24

The Original Knight
SOLUNAR TABLES
When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
Thurs.	2:45	9:25	3:20	9:55
Fri.	3:35	10:20	4:10	10:50
Sat.	4:30	11:10	5:05	11:35
Sun.	5:20	—	5:50	12:05
Mon.	6:15	12:30	6:45	12:55
Tues.	7:05	1:25	7:35	1:55
Wed.	8:10	2:20	8:30	2:45
Thurs.	9:00	3:15	9:25	3:40

Sinker Bouncing

with Matt Ahern

Early Fall FLOUNDER

With fall only a week or so away, I wonder just how many of us have been jumping the gun and looking forward to the coming flounder season. There is still plenty of good summer fishing left, I know, but I'm one of those fishermen who like to rush the season when possible. Certainly there are plenty of king-sized snappers around to make things interesting; the chances of nailing a prowling doormat fluke around the ocean inlets and offshore wrecks are still good, and sea bass and porgies are chomping at the bait as if it were July. But yet with all this, I'm sure a multitude of sinker bouncers have given a thought or two to the fall flounder run. Experienced fishermen know that given several cool nights and a day or two of inclement weather from the east, their chances of connecting with a few fall flatties are greatly increased. The only trouble is most eager-beaver fishermen like me don't enjoy waiting for Nature to take its course. Just as soon as I notice October getting closer and closer with each passing day, I begin to get restless. Hang the snappers and all the rest, because right now I've got a strong desire to sink my hooks into fat fall flounder, and my teeth into delicious, pan fried fillets. I've waited for this opportunity since last May, and that's long enough.

There's only one hitch, though: where can a fisherman with such inclinations find a place to dunk a bit of flounder bait this early in the season and expect some measure of success? Well, I've found out from past experience that those good flounder fishing spots out east—such as in the Shinnecock and Peconic areas—often leave much to be desired at this time of year. I've never had much luck with fall flounder in those areas until at least mid-October.

On occasion, I catch flounder while fishing Shinnecock Canal just before September's end, but should I fail, I don't lose much for I live out in this neck of the woods; therefore, not much expense is involved. But if you don't live locally, I wouldn't want to see you make a long haul out there without some assurance of a bit of action.

But if you live in the Island Park area, or can reach it without too much difficulty, I'd say that if you're interested in some early flounder action, your chances are good. Why the fall flatties should hit this area first is beyond me, but they do. Perhaps lower water temperatures has much to do with it (and I suspect this is the chief reason), but regardless of what it may possibly be, I have never fished for flounder in Island Park during the last two weeks in September and failed to get some sort of action. I've never reaped a bonanza, nor have I caught flounder over one pound. In fact, most were half that weight, with an occasional three-quarter pounder to lend a little spice. Those one-and-a-half to two pounders we all enjoy catching so much don't really hit in there until mid-November. I say this because in over fifty years of fishing these waters, I've never been fortunate enough to land one this size before really cold weather set in.

Okay, you say, all this sounds fine; but your telling me to fish Island Park doesn't mean too much because there's an awful lot of water around there. So tell me: where do you fish? I'll answer that by telling you exactly where I've had the best action over the years.

And this is easy enough to do because of all the many spots I've fished throughout the area, there are only two areas experience has taught can be depended upon to produce in early fall. Sure, there are other localities just as good, for Lord knows I've seen pretty good catches brought in by other fishermen who never find the need to dunk bait near my two spots.

One of these spots is on the mud flats in the general area of Buoy 9 in Reynold's Channel, and the other is in Schaeffer's Creek, with the edge for action favoring the creek. There are other area creeks that hold flounder, but as I've never given these more than a haphazard whirl from time to time and always with lackluster results, I'll throw them into the discard. I don't want you inciting the wrath of the fishing gods upon this old gray head should you draw zilch in these places. Better to let sleeping dogs lie.

Okay. Buoy 9. What particular part of this area is best? I've always gotten good results about 150 feet east and slightly north of the can. You will find some good mud bottom here, and of great importance, it also harbors many grass shrimp which no self-respecting flounder would ignore. It is also important that you anchor in water between fifteen and twenty feet deep.

On a three-quarter rising tide, if you re-anchor about fifty feet north, you should stay with the fish as they prowl the flats feeding on those shrimp I mentioned. If the tide is dropping, stay in the first area as long as you have that important fifteen to twenty feet of water under you. If you believe there is less water than this at any time, pull the hook and move closer to the channel. But don't get beyond the required depth for the best fishing. This is most important! Incidentally, while I don't wish to change the subject from one fish to another, this entire area is often an excellent fluke spot in June and July. Keep it in mind.

Away back when, my buddies and I used to take advantage of the fact that grass shrimp were thick in the area and when we did our early fall flounder fishing here, we placed a three-foot leader about four feet above the sinker, added a 4/0 regular-shanked Sproat with a flag of squid about four inches long in the hope that we would garner a shrimp-hungry weakfish.

Sometimes it worked and, of course, sometimes it didn't; but I know that if I were going to fish this spot tomorrow, I would certainly try it. Who knows? It's worth the gamble. But I don't want to set your weakfish hopes too high in this respect. I haven't caught one with this method in the past three years while fishing this area—although I always give it a good shot.

As I said before, Schaeffer's Creek, as far as I'm concerned, has the edge over Buoy 9 at this time of year. I can remember slow fishing in the buoy area, but the creek has always come through. In fact, it has never failed me in all the years I've fished there and once the weather remains cool and Indian Summer has passed, the chances of consistently good fishing in the creek is excellent.

But like all good fishing areas, not every spot you fish is productive. I've had my best action around the first bend of the creek (coming in from the direction of the channel) between Garret Marsh and the west bank. The creek narrows here and you might say a captive audience

(Continued on page 11.)

A double-header of average size early fall flounder.

Surf Side with Herb Buch

SPLIT DAY

No one would argue about the flounder being an extremely popular fish on Long Island. They have been much less abundant than usual for a couple of years now, but they still attract tremendous numbers of anglers during the spring, and quite a few during the fall. Present in the same waters during the same seasons, and seemingly in larger numbers each year, are the blackfish. Blackfish are not difficult to catch, although they require attention to the job. The effort is not more than the amount required to tease flounders when they are being difficult—although the effort is of a different type. Baits are easily available and no more expensive than those used for flounders. The fish themselves are magnificent fighters and delicious on the table. With all this in their favor, you might ask why more fishermen do not fish for them. The two reasons most commonly offered are the loss of tackle, and the difficulty of cleaning the fish. Both of these problems can be overcome in one way or another. It is true that you must lose some rigs if you fish for blackfish. The expense can be minimized by snelling your own hooks. Virginia hooks, like all others, are least expensive when bought in boxes of one hundred. Add about eight inches of leader material, with a loop at the end, and you can snell enough hooks in one evening to last the season. Sinkers can be home-molded from scrap, or you can use discarded spark plugs. If you go the spark plug route, rinse them in gasoline to remove any oil, then hammer the side electrode down to meet the center electrode. This forms an eye to which you can attach your leader.

My rig consists of a piece of heavy mono, about thirty pound test. Three loops are tied: one at each end, and one dropper near the one which will hold the sinker. Slide this loop through the eye of the spark plug or sinker and then loop it around the whole thing and pull it tight. The dropper is for your single snelled hook. Stick to one hook to minimize hang-ups. The other loop is for your line. Rigs like this are relatively inexpensive and are easy to put together.

The cleaning of blackfish can be a horror if you try to scale them. Don't try; just fillet the meat off of each side, and take the skin off—just as you would do for a large flounder. The only difference is that there is a larger body cavity, and a longer row of short bones just above the ribs. Since these fish are very meaty, the easy solution is to locate these bones with your fingers and slice through the meat just above this row down to where they end. This cut is now angled down to remove the rib section along with the row of bones. The fillet is now boneless. If you want to get fancy, it is not difficult to remove these bones and save the meat over the ribs; but when you catch plenty of fish you will usually ignore the loss to save work. The fish can be cooked in any way that you like and most people find it very good. Perhaps it does not equal flounder, but there is more meat on the bones and the fish are much more fun to catch.

Now that you know how to make both fishing for blackfish, and cleaning them less distasteful, why not try splitting some of your fall days to add some variety and excitement to your surf trips. If you fish Long Island Sound, you may have been doing this without planning. Because of the close proximity of rocks, sand, and mud in many areas, a flounder rig will often bring in blackfish without any special effort in that direction. In most places on the south shore, however, you will have to plan your day to make the most of it. In the Great South Bay area, where most of our fishing is done, we are seldom very far from a location which shelters many blackfish. Inlet jetties, bridge supports, pilings, and rock or concrete-littered bottoms will all hold good populations. What you need is local information on tides and currents to help you to plan your day.

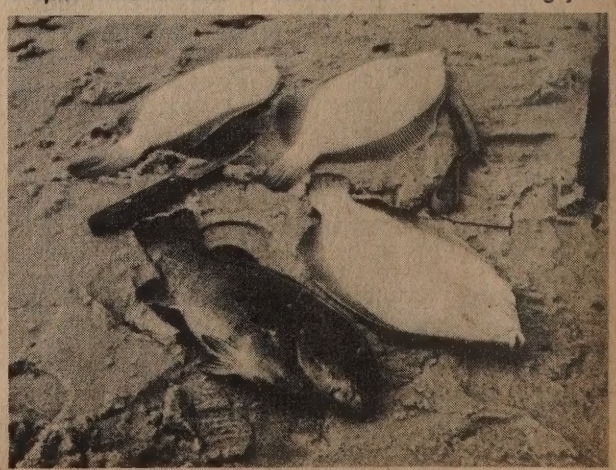
For several years now, we have been consistently catching our first fall flounders from shore during early October. These fish are probably returning to the bays after a summer in the ocean, because we catch them in the inlets. We discovered this action while we were trying for kingfish. Unfortunately, your chances of catching kingfish are just about nil in this area as of last season. Flounders on the other hand can supply some excellent action at times, and so can the blackfish. As the season progresses you will find more and more flounders inside the bays, and the blackfish hang in there until late in November most years.

Fire Island Inlet could be a good place to begin, because there is good fishing available on both sides. You can park at Robert Moses field #2 and walk over to the Bay side to find lots of locations that will produce flounders. When the tide begins to slow down, walk over to the rock wall that lines the inlet towards Democrat Point and give the blackfish a try. By fishing from about an hour before to an hour after slack tide, you will have less trouble with snags caused by the current dragging you into the rocks. I do not mean that you fish away from the rocks, because the fish are right in among them. In many places, all you do is let your baited rig straight down from the rock you are standing on. It is just that a strong current makes it difficult to hold the bait in one spot, which seems to be necessary to tempt the blackfish. In some locations where a short cast is necessary, the slower current period is even more important. The other side of the inlet also offers many opportunities. One for those who do not want to walk is found at Oak Beach near "the Store." Flounder are available here from the bulkhead and blackfish from the little jetty sheltering the launching ramp. Wherever the access is easy, you must expect lots of competition from other anglers for the best spots and this place is usually crowded when the fish are biting. Senior citizens who live in Babylon may get a special permit to park farther down along Oak Beach where the flounder can sometimes be terrific. From that point, a healthy walk will bring you to the Sore Thumb, which can be great for blackfish. If you try this area, stay off of private property and believe the "No Parking" signs.

West End #2 at Jones Beach State Park is another good location, where sandy bottom on the bay side can furnish flounders; while nearby you have some docks and rock littered shore line that can produce excellent catches of blackfish. East Rockaway Inlet and Debs Inlet also have many possibilities for doubling up on your fall run.

Do not be discouraged if you are not successful at first. Look around, try different areas, talk to other fishermen, and you will succeed in locating some good spots.

Sometimes you can make a poor day into a successful one by taking advantage of opportunity. On some days, flounders are hard to locate, but crabs of all sizes and shapes are abundant. These bait stealers are eating your



The makings of a good fish fry.

expensive worms and causing no end of aggravation. Instead of getting upset, drop these pests into a bucket. Rock crabs and calico crabs make excellent bait if you cut them up. You also catch green crabs some days, and everyone knows that they are excellent blackfish bait. When it comes to blue crabs, they are for us—not for bait; but last year was very poor for them, and after this past severe winter, it is doubtful that we will have a good season for these table delicacies.

Now that you have a bucket of free bait and the tide is beginning to slow down, get yourself over to the nearest blackfish location and tie on a suitable rig. Take a crab and break off its claws and legs. Crush them a little and throw them in as chum. Now, lift off the top shell of the crab using a bait knife to pry a little. Cut the body into four to six pieces. Your Virginia hook is inserted into the hole where you broke off a leg and set into the gristle of the crab. Drop it to the bottom and wait.

If blacks are around, you won't wait long. Hooking them takes a little timing. Don't pull until you get what feels like a heavy crunch. This indicates that the bait is in his mouth. Set the hook with lots of authority and reel as fast as the fish will let you. Even a small black will stop you dead many times on the way up. The procedure requires that you ignore light pecks, even though lots of bait may be stolen. When you hook one, move him away from the bottom as fast as you can; #6 hooks are about right to hook the bay blacks.

Blackfishing is very exciting when they are located, because you must concentrate on your fishing. One minute you may have a half-pound fish chewing the bait off around the edge of your hook; the next, you may be into a four pound bruiser that tries to tie your line around a rock or pull the rod out of your hands. It can make you an addict in spite of the lost rigs. Just as you are really getting the hang of it, the tide begins to speed up and it is time to go back to the flounders.

I am trying to interest you in an under-utilized resident of our waters that can really give you a thrill on light tackle. This year, split your flounder trips, and add some excitement to your day.

Jean with a shore caught blackfish.

Sinker Bouncing: *FLOUNDER*

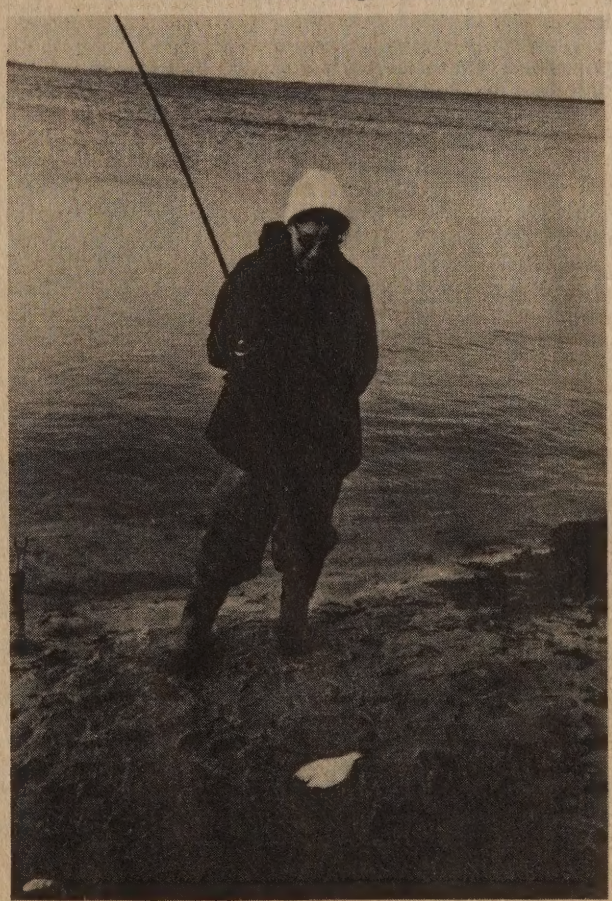
(Continued from page 9.)

exists. I have discovered the better fishing is found closer to the west bank, opposite the marsh. But you will have to do a little hunting in this area, although most any place you drop over should produce one or two fish. Sometimes a move of only twenty-five feet is all that's necessary to land over a concentration. Just as with the Buoy 9 fishing, that all-important fifteen to twenty foot depth is required for best results.

Blood or sand worm work well in early season, as does soft clam neck. Just as long as the water remains warmish, I would put more faith in worms. Mussel bait works well, too. But one thing about fishing the creek at this time of year: don't chum! If you do, you will draw baby porgies, sea robins, and tiny blowfish to your bait and they'll make short work of it. If this happens, be advised to move. Remaining there and feeding annoying bait-stealers will avail you naught. Wait until springtime to do your chumming, or until colder water drives these little pests to deeper water.

Shore fishermen often do well in the creek. I know on rainy days when I didn't care to rent a skiff, I've caught some pretty good flounder in the creek by casting off the banks or some available pier. Actually you will have more difficulty finding a suitable place from which to fish than you will catching the fish. Therefore, if this is your idea, I suggest you look over the area first. Some of the better spots front on private property. This is discouraging, I know; but if you ask for permission and give your word that you'll pick up after you, there should be no problem.

Anyway, if Island Park is within your fishing radius, you ought to think about giving it a try soon. It's about the only place I know where the chances of connecting with some early fall flounder are good. Come out to eastern Long Island about mid-October if you wish. The flounder will be waiting then, but don't forget to give western Long Island a try first.



A "keeper" flounder for the frying pan.

FISHERMAN TIPS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

KONA BEAD LURES, TROLLED ON THE SURFACE, HAVE MADE SENSATIONAL CATCHES OF TUNA, MARLIN, ALBACORE AND BLUES. COMES ARMED WITH A 9-0 SIWASH HOOK AND A 10 FT. 200 LB. TEST BRAIDED CABLE LEADER. *THE TIP* IS TO GRIND OFF THE *HOOK BARB* FOR MORE PENETRATION INTO BONES AND BILLS - *THEN KEEP THE LINE TIGHT!*

TERMINAL END OF LEADER

KONA BEAD LURE TIPS FROM LECTURE BY VICTOR JESENITSCHNIG, BABYLON TUNA CLUB VICE PRESIDENT WHO DID HIS RESEARCH OUT AT THE HUDSON CANYON ON HIS BOAT "*REEL EZY*".

BELLY DANCER, A NEW BEAD AND TUBE LURE FOR TROLLING OFF-SHORE FISH BEING TESTED IN NEW ENGLAND.

BRIDGEPORT'S NEW ROUND *SAND EEL JIG* FOR BLUES & STRIPERS. CAN BE CAST, JIGGED, "*HEAVED AND HAULED*" WITH 7-0 MUSTAD O'SHAUGHNESSY HOOK AND BARREL SWIVEL

CLEAR PLASTIC

IF YOU SPRAY NEW PLUGS WITH CLEAR PLASTIC, THEY WILL STAY BRIGHTER LONGER - AND CATCH MORE FISH.

WORMS WILL STAY LIVELY LONGER IF YOU FASTEN THEM WITH SMALL RUBBER BANDS INSTEAD OF HOOKING IN THE USUAL WAY.

DON'T DISCARD ALL YOUR LEAVES THIS FALL. STORE SOME IN A PILE - IN SPRING WHEN WORMS ARE HARD TO FIND ELSEWHERE, DIG THERE.

NATIONAL SCENE

NEWS & NOTES ON THE WORLD OF FISHING
with Al Ristori

Anglers Get Break on School Tuna

School tuna fishing off the New Jersey and Long Island Coasts has been the best in several years. Large quantities of small-to-medium schoolies have been taken by boats fishing out of all the major ports, and it appears that the fishing will continue well into the Fall. On the other hand, anglers in Virginia and Maryland didn't do nearly as well this year as they had the previous two seasons.

Apparently, the schoolies moved up the Coast quickly after coming inshore in mid-June. Even the seiners had a hard time filling their quota. The originally announced closing date of the season had to be suspended, as the fleet was nowhere near the 800 tons allocated for the first portion of the season. This was to be followed by an additional 200 tons to be taken in conjunction with scientific studies. With the season extended, the seiners went over their initial allocation and ended up with about 940 tons. However, Bill Gordon, Northeast Director of NMFS, told me that there would be no additional seining for scientific purposes this year. Of course, the Canadian purse seiner, "Atlantic Gardener," continued fishing through July in our waters and was expected to take about 350 tons.

One of the reasons we've enjoyed relatively good school tuna fishing this summer is the composition of the catch taken by the seiners. They ended up with almost nothing less than three-year-olds (thirty-two to sixty-three pounds). The vast majority of the sport catch has been of the slightly smaller two-year-olds. Anglers in the New York Bight area have also run into a lot of first year fish (under fourteen pounds) that have to be returned. However, the large seining catch of three and four-year-olds has obviously taken its toll, as no large quantities of that size fish are being taken.

Marine biologists are keeping their fingers crossed on the 1973 year class of bluefin tuna. In that year, a dwindling stock of giant tuna produced the best year class of tuna since 1958. The primary purpose of U.S. regulatory effort since then has been to conserve that year class until it reached sexual maturity this year. We'll find out in the next few years just how successful that effort was. In the meantime, our conservation attempts are frustrated by our inability to control foreign fishing for tuna in our waters. The Japanese take 9000 giant tuna per spring out of the Gulf of Mexico, and long-line large school tuna off the Atlantic Coast in Fall and Winter. As previously noted, the Canadians are able to conduct a school tuna operation off our Coast even when all other fishing by U.S. and Canadian vessels in the other nation's waters has been suspended due to the breakdown in fisheries negotiations. The only solution is a legislative one. Write to your Congressmen and Senators urging that tuna be included in the 200-Mile legislation!

Tagging Program Shows Movement of Tuna from Gulf to New England

A special harpoon tagging program conducted in the Gulf of Maine last summer, resulted in 159 giants being tagged. Of these, fourteen were recaptured later in the season in the same general area. However, two others were captured by Japanese long-liners working in the Gulf of Mexico this spring—proving (if there was any doubt) that the pre-spawning giants being taken there are the same fish populating our waters. The harpoon tagging program is continuing this year, with sixty giants tagged as of July 28. By the end of July, U.S. purse seiners had recovered 118 tagged school tuna off the mid-Atlantic states, while Japanese long-liners had recaptured nine schoolies with tags off the Northeast Coast, and sportsmen had boated three more.

Shark Tagging Catching On

Each year more anglers cooperate in the NMFS tagging program designed to determine migratory patterns and growth rates of sharks. During June, approximately 500 sharks were tagged and nine recaptures reported. Most interesting recapture was of a blue shark tagged off Long Island and taken exactly one year later off Dominica, West Indies—1800 miles!

NMFS scientists were well represented at the annual Bay Shore Mako Tournament on June 24-25. The 150 boats participating caught about 450 sharks, of which 160 were tagged; 154 weighed in, and 136 released untagged. Catch per unit of effort was way down from more successful years, possibly due to cold water, lack of wind for drifting, or the additional traveling time put in by most boats to reach the likeliest areas. Fish brought back to the dock weren't wasted, as all were examined by the scientists on the dock. Stomach analysis indicated that makos were feeding almost exclusively on ten to fifteen pound bluefish; indeed, ninety-three percent of the makos examined had such bluefish remains in their stomachs—a pretty good indication of what we should be using for bait! Blue and sandbar (brown) sharks were feeding on a wider variety of prey, including red hake (ling), skates, dogfish, and crabs. The Bay Shore Tuna Club, sponsor of the Tournament, has been a leader in shark conservation and this year even printed a booklet of tagging instructions which is being distributed by Jack Casey at the NMFS Lab in Narragansett, R.I.

Basking Shark Surprises Researchers

On June 5, a basking shark six meters in length was harpooned south of Block Island and towed into Warwick, Rhode Island. NMFS biologists examined the huge plankton (primarily copepods). However, about five percent of the stomach contents turned out to be mackerel eggs—approximately 545,000! Is the basking shark a major predator of mackerel at that stage? Probably not. Actually the number of eggs involved is insignificant in the case of a prolific species. There also aren't enough basking sharks to make much of a dent in any population. These harmless monsters (they grow to about forty feet and thousands of pounds) were once sought by a harpoon fishery for the oils in their livers. There is no longer any commercial use for the species and this relatively rare creature should be left alone—just as is the case with the much more common, but equally useless, ocean sunfish.

Council Readies Draft Mackerel, Squid and Butterfish Plans For Hearings

Hearings have just been scheduled on three Fishery Management Plans prepared by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. Plans for mackerel, squid, and butterfish will be discussed at each meeting in order to conduct the required public hearing process on an economical basis. Area hearings will be on September 27 at the Asbury Avenue Pavilion, South Asbury and Ocean Avenue, Asbury Park, N.J.; and on September 28 at the Holiday Inn, Route 347, Centereach, Long Island.

The mackerel plan recommends the same basic catch limits as were proposed in the plan for this year that never went into effect. The total U.S. catch is to be restricted to 14,000 metric tons, with 9,000 allocated to the sport fisheries and 5,000 to the domestic commercial fishery. The foreign fleet is restricted to 1,200 metric tons (just as in the present PMP) strictly as incidental catch. Permits will be required of all vessels fishing commercially for mackerel, including party and charter boats. This requirement is designed to facilitate good record keeping and the

(Continued on page 21.)

FALL BLUEFISH INSIDE NORTH SHORE HARBORS

by Don Avondolio

At this time of year, from early fall to the late fall season, some of the best bluefishing is available that would excite the most experienced fisherman. Blues tend to be chopper "teen" size or more, congregating in rampaging schools more numerous than any other time of the season. The temperature is cooler, more invigorating for fishing, compared to the previous late summer "dog days" with their slow, picky fishing. Winds are blustery, almost always NE or NW, creating rough water one day and changing to calm weather the next. As most fishermen know, the various bait fish school up in the fall and leave for other waters, with blues following not far behind. This exodus to southern-most waters seems to make blues less wary and more hungry, prior to leaving our waters. Throughout the spring and summer, scattered blues are caught sporadically at different locations and at various times of day.

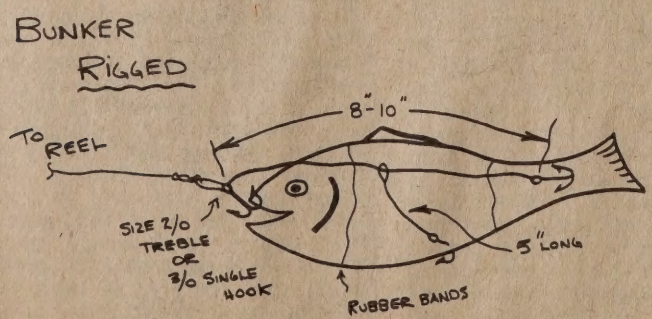
As early fall approaches, blues are mostly on the surface feeding en masse on bait fish, sand eels and bunker. They are located by the presence of excited birds working above them, diving for scraps. This occurrence usually signals the start of all action. Throughout the last eight years, the bluefish quantity has decreased significantly, but there have always been blues to be found in the fall. For the past few years, it has been apparent that blues were situated inside harbors, close to beaches and near points of land (peninsulas), especially early morning and evening hours. During the daylight hours, they seem to favor deep mid-Sound locations, as a general rule. The use of chart recorders, combined with wire-line trolling is the usual method of catching them at this time. It almost seems that blues rest during the day and search actively during early and late hours in secluded inshore areas. This procedure changes radically in the fall to a more spontaneous feeding pattern that can erupt at almost any time. Usually this change of pattern is recognized by reports written in local newspapers, Long Island Fisherman magazine, radio, and by way of tackle shop scuttlebutt. News travels fast and it is wise to catch the fall run early, prior to the massive entrance of fishermen into the water.

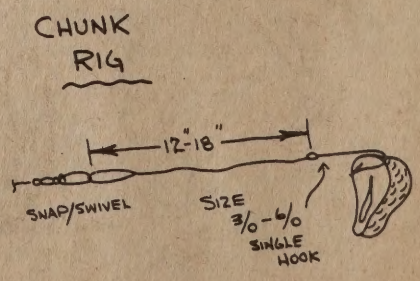
I usually find that the only way to beat the boat traffic and confusion is to fish on a weekday. Weekend fishing is sometimes impossible, as boat noise is at a maximum,

Two seventeen pound choppers caught in Cold Spring Harbor—one on a chunk, the other a live bunker.

causing schools to scatter in all different directions. The map shown describes the usual haunts of these fish consistent from year to year. By comparing these locations to the latest reported sightings, the fisherman can almost pinpoint areas of potentially good fishing.

Late September last year, fishing reports came in that big choppers were on the Long Island Sound scene, alongside bunkers that were located inside Huntington and Cold Spring harbors. Enthusiastic about the news, my fishing partner, Al and I, decided to take a vacation day off from work and try our luck. We headed toward these locations early in the morning on a pleasant sunny day with winds that were moderate from the north as we launched from the Lilco ramp and headed toward Huntington harbor inlet. We had previously prepared bluefish wire leader rigs that would be used in conjunction with whole bunkers or chunks as required. For safety's sake, we had purchased several fresh bunkers from our local tackle shop. On occasion, especially during windy



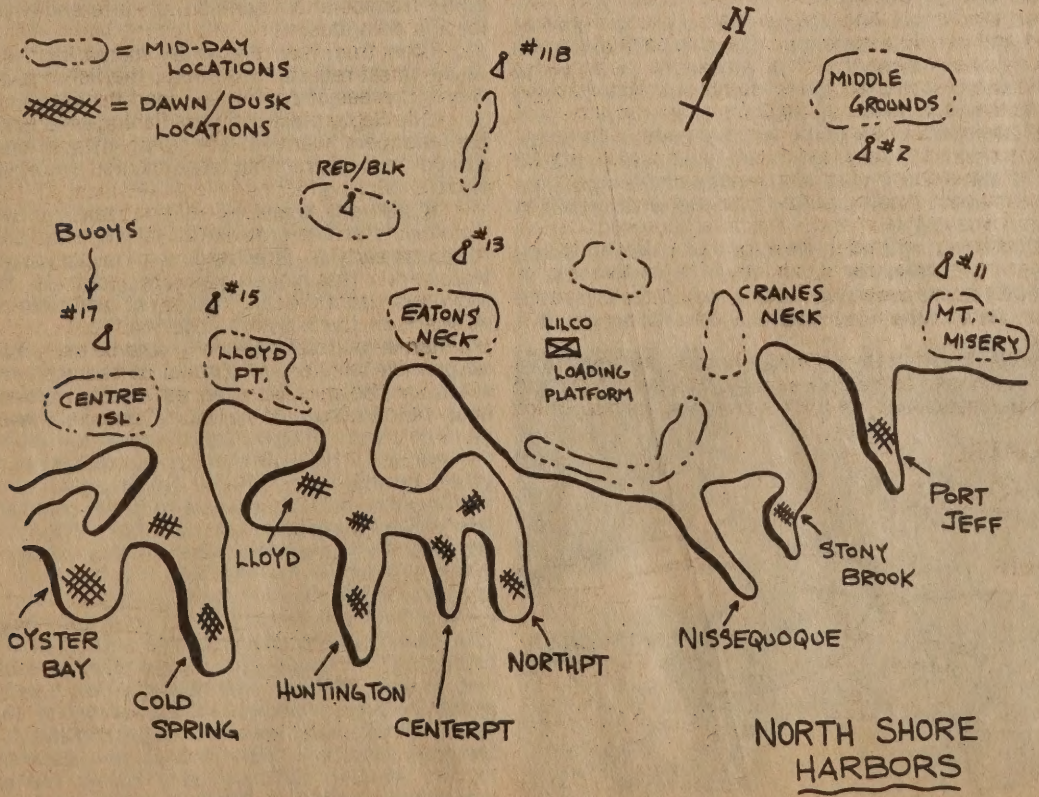


days, schools of bunker are hard to locate, so we brought along several frozen ones. As we usually fish the flood tide at this location, we decided to fish early and move to Cold Spring Harbor at the change of the tide. Our first chosen location was not productive after a couple of hours. We then decided to catch the ebb at Cold Spring and relocate at an area adjacent to Cooper's Bluff. The ebb had started and as we arrived, I noticed a fisherman in a seventeen foot Whaler battling a blue. Surface splashes were apparent in mid-channel at frequent intervals. We set up our rigs and drifted out with the tide adjacent to the active area. All of a sudden, bunker were fleeing out of the water around us. They were being chased by bluefish deep below. Al and I quickly switched to spin rods with snatch hooks in order to snag a few live bunker for bait. After a few successful bunker catches, I noticed that my reel (in its rod holder) started to let line out. The click drag signaled that a fish was running with the bait. After six or eight seconds, I engaged the spool drag and set the hook. The battle that followed was as exciting as could be expected. After numerous runs and several jumps, I boated a 16 lb. 4 oz. bluefish that had swallowed the bunker chunk and almost cut through the wire leader. Needless to say, the action was fast and furious for both of us that afternoon. Two of the largest blues caught that day are shown in the photograph. Because of several lost "big" choppers in previous years, I had decided to use wire leaders in lieu of heavy mono. Blues sometimes shy away from wire leaders, but the gamble was worth it on this particular trip. The moral of the story is, "find bunkers and you've got bluefish."

Bunkers (or menhaden) are more often than not found in tightly congregated schools, sometimes near or on the surface. In clear, calm, almost glass-like water, they can be spotted swimming, or flipping on the surface. Sometimes they are mistaken for a school of surface-feeding snappers, or blues; but when cast to with a plug, spoon, or baited hook, they will show a complete lack of response. One reason for their location in harbors is the frequent strong northerly winds that are common during the late fall season. These winds drive them into protective quarters where water conditions are calmer. These fish, being in the herring family, are plankton eaters and microscopic sea life is more prominent inside harbors near docks, piers, moorings, creeks and grassy marsh areas. Also, the unpopular bunker boats tend to drive schools inside in their attempt to net them for commercial purposes. Blues are aware that bunkers are more easily obtained inside harbors by herding them against bodies of land. Choppers have been known to take up permanent locations adjacent to or below the bunker schools and travel with them. Occasionally, they grab a bunker or two for a meal when hungry. Thus, it's wise to snag a few fish and use them as bait by swimming them below or near the school. Several different snatch rigs are used for capturing the bunkers, but I, myself favor the single-weighted snatch treble hook attached to heavy twenty pound test mono line. The treble hook is cast beyond the school and after a second or two, it is whipped through the area in a rapid retrieve method. Once the bunkers are snagged, they must be placed in a re-circulating bait well in order to be kept alive as long as possible. A tip worth mentioning, written by Frank Keating some years ago that can be used if your boat does not contain a live bait well is as follows: purchase a cheap styrofoam cooler and add drain holes in the bottom surface. Fresh-caught bunkers placed into this cooler can be kept in perfect condition by adding chunk ice on top of them. The ice water drains off the bunker through the bottom and does not affect the freshness of the fish. Of course, if a bunker school is not sighted during your trip, you should be prepared with several purchased bunker from your local tackle shop.

Tackle for these choppers tends to be on the heavy side in the fall and the reason is obvious: these are large strong fish with razor sharp dentures that can crush a snap swivel. I witnessed the straightening of a snap by a sudden rush of a blue and also experienced the severing of sixty pound test mono almost instantly by these big choppers. I would recommend a conventional open face 3/0 reel size with a star drag utilizing a click spool tension button. Combine this reel with a six-and-a-half to seven foot medium stiffness boat rod which is two-handed for better handling. I use a medium size spin reel with matching rod for casting and snagging to a bunker school with 100 yards of 20# test mono. On the star drag style reel, I use 35# test

(Continued on page 17.)



SHARK BASICS: The End Game

by Barbara Sands

There are few sights as thrilling as a thrashing shark being brought up to the transom of a boat. Potentially dangerous, as well as rough on the boat itself, this hungry killer of the sea can usually be subdued by a well-placed shot from a bangstick, pistol, or a shotgun. The bangstick is the simplest mechanism. Made of stainless steel, it fires on contact. It has a safety which is inserted into a tube; this prevents the firing pin from striking the cartridge. In order to activate the bangstick, the safety has to be removed. It can be used for protection underwater, which makes it an essential tool for divers exploring for sunken treasure or photographic adventure. There are different calibers which can be used, such as .221, .44 magnum, or a regular twelve gauge shotgun shell, which is probably the best. The bangstick is relatively reasonable in price. It can be purchased for under $100; usually $50 to $70. Somehow the bangstick is not thought of as a weapon by anti-gunners in quite the same way as shotguns, rifles and handguns. It is not out of place on a fishing boat, but just considered another piece of equipment.

A new ten gauge, six inch barrel accessory for a standard twelve gauge bangstick has been developed. It is considered by some to be the most powerful contact weapon in the world. Normally, the twelve gauge charge travels a four inch, air-filled barrel for maximum powder burn. Of course, the six inch barrel should definitely intensify these lethal results.

There are some bangsticks that come in six-foot lengths, wtih six-foot extensions. However, the extension can become very unwieldy when an angler is trying to establish contact with a wriggling shark while he's bracing himself on a wet and tossing deck.

The bangstick is basically a tube with a cartridge seated at the end. The tip of the cartridge should be placed squarely on the shark's head, right on top of the space just between the eyes. Then Pop! The monster is supposed to turn into a pussycat.

Of course, a single shot rifle could be used, but there are really no inexpensive rifles, and they will rust. A semi-automatic weapon must never be used as it is much too deadly on a rolling sea. There is something about a semi-automatic that tends to substitute accuracy for firepower. A single-shot—be it a bangstick or a pistol or a shotgun—is safest and most accurate to use. Any powerful revolver cartridge will do the trick. A revolver is much safer than a semi-automatic pistol. Also, the fine mechanism of a semi-automatic would be harmed by salt air and saltwater.

The mate wires the shark closer to the boat so that waiting captain can zap him with the "bangstick."

A single shot, single barreled shotgun with an exposed hammer is deadly as far as quieting a shark is concerned, and comparatively safe. Use a solid slug, buckshot or No. 2 shot. Put the barrel as close to the shark's head as possible, aim and pull the trigger. A shotgun can be purchased for as little as $40 or $50, but it will also rust; so it doesn't really pay to lay out too much money on a shotgun for shark shooting.

The most dangerous way to shoot a shark is with a pistol. The shorter barrel on a pistol cuts down accuracy and leaves too much room for wild shots—especially on wet decks and rolling seas. A pistol barrel can waver and cause untold tragedy and damage. Frank Mundus, the superman of shark fishing, still has a .45 caliber bullet in his spray rail, put there by an inexperienced angler.

Of course, a pistol permit is mandatory anywhere that handguns are used.

Since mako sharks are considered game fish, there are sport anglers who do not believe in shooting them. A bullet-ridden fish is deemed mutilated and thus, ineligible for any records.

Then there are the shark fishermen who seem to relish dangerous and dramatic types of weaponry such as cherry bombs and fireworks. However, the same effect can be produced by placing a pipe in the water and striking it repeatedly with a hammer. Noise attracts sharks. In my opinion, though, nothing takes the place of a heavy, steady chum line.

Shooting a shark is, at the least, a two-man job. Actually, a trained crew is the safest, most practical, and most productive. Practiced anglers mean coordinated teamwork that makes sure the fish is boated. An inexperienced crew can wind up at best with no fish, and at worst, as shark bait themselves.

Sometimes a shark is way down deep, lets himself be tugged up toward the surface of the water slowly but surely, and then rebels in an agitated lunge away from the boat. On one such sharking adventure, there were two baits out, and in the frenzy of having the monster on his line suddenly take off like an express train, the angler yelled for the other line to be brought in. They were starting to cross, and he was afraid that could cost him the shark. Something had to be done fast. "Cut the line!" he shouted. His fishing buddy cut the line, all right—the line with the shark at the other end.

On another sharking jaunt, a hefty, six foot five angler got the first hit of the day, and energetically began hauling it in. Somehow the shark became entangled with the line belonging to a lightweight on the other side of the boat, who thought that he, too, had a shark. The lightweight earnestly began reeling, his excitement of the moment giving him a sudden power. The giant at the other side of the boat, sensing a spurt of unusual resistance, strained harder, winding furiously, and slowly but surely, the lightweight angler was drawn over to the side of the boat, and up and over the gunwales. He was dangling halfway

into the black, shark-infested water before another fellow fisherman grabbed him sharply back into the boat by the seat of his pants. This near accident could have been avoided by checking the drag on the reel at the time the bait was placed in the water.

And then there was the shark junket when Son of Jaws had taken the bait. Each member of the crew had a go at it, reeling with all their might, huffing and puffing, and in the end, giving up the rod in exhaustion to the next man. Eventually, with four stout-hearted fishermen giving their all, the shark was raised out of the depths, and the line was pulled up to the leader. The anglers held their breath in anticipation, and satisfaction as well. Then, one of the crew in a desperate rush of over-eagerness, wrapped the leader around a cleat, hoping to prevent the shark from making another run. The cable held, but the hook pulled out, and one of the really big ones got away.

Still another time, on a stellar shark fishing day, every twenty minutes produced a deep, elephantine hit. One time the shark was so big that the captain dropped off the anchor, and the shark began towing the boat. What an eerie feeling to be in a small boat being towed by a shark that could be a mammoth—but unseen. No horse-and-buggy ride, this. Every time line was gained, it played out again. And then the leader broke. Maddeningly, at each and every subsequent hit, the leader broke again. Why? Because the leader was 120 pound test and the line was 130 pound test. Of course, the leader could have been doubled, and the drag set differently. But in the heat of all that excitement, the obvious was overlooked.

Everything must be perfect on a fishing trip (especially for shark) when there is actual danger involved. Even more care must be exercised when a weapon is used. Never, never shoot a green shark, but always wait till it is somewhat played out. One man should hold the leader in his gloved hands, drawing the shark across the top of the water trying to hold the shark in as motionless and steady a position as he can. The second man fires the charge. At this point, it's always wise to have a third member of the crew standing by with a regular gaff or a flying gaff, as after it is shot, a stunned shark will sink.

And then there was the fellow who climbed alongside the boat to fix an outrigger while sharks were gobbling up the chum right underneath him. Unhappily, he lost his footing, and was splashed into the chum. As his fellow crewmen gaped in horror, a sudden miraculous burst of adrenalin catapulted the fisherman right back into the boat. But he was one of the lucky ones.

Shark tales are the greatest, and have to last the shark fisherman from adventure to adventure. But it's that slight twitch of the line, the piece of foam bobbing, or the balloon going underwater that really quickens the pulses—the unmistakable signals that a shark is taking your bait.

NORTH SHORE HARBOR BLUES

(Continued from page 15.)

mono with a 50# test snap swivel attached. The two bunker rigs used are shown in the picture and were constructed by myself with the aid of a crimp plier, nylon coated wire and crimp sleeves. This crimp plier is used to close the metal sleeves around the plastic coated wire leader. My first rig is used in conjunction with mackerel, butterfish or bunker chunks. Construct a single 35# test wire leader about twelve to eighteen inches long, attached to a single short shank 4/0 or 6/0 hook. A loop is formed on the other end with another crimp sleeve. To properly present this chunk on a drift, place the single hook through the meaty portion (usually dorsal) of the bait and allow the hook point to protrude. Before the initial drift, place a rubber core sinker (about three-quarter to one ounce) from one to two feet above the wire leader in order to present the bait below water surface. Change the rubber core sinker as necessary in order to reach the feeding depth of the bluefish. Set the drag fairly tight, disengage the spool and set the click button on. Gradually let out from twenty-five to one hundred feet of line and put the rod in its holder. When the click is heard, wait five to eight seconds, engage the spool and set the hook hard several times. If the fish has the bait in his throat or stomach, you will probably be in a great position to land him. Blues are known to run with the bait at first hit, before swallowing it, and a premature tug will only pull it out of his mouth. A second type of rig is used with whole live or dead bunker. Attach 2/0 treble hooks at about eight or ten inches apart. I then attach a single hook to another five inch long wire leader. At the end of this wire leader, a loop is formed around the first double hook leader that will allow movement of one leader agains the other. This rig is attached to the whole bunker or mackerel as follows: one of the double hooks is place near the tail or dorsal fin. The single free-swinging hook is inserted near the belly or vent. Rubber bands placed around the body keep the wire leaders close to the bunker. Blues chop at the bunkers by grabbing them either at the tail or the belly first. Finally, attach the rig to main line by means of a snap swivel to the front hook eye. Allow the bunker to swim away twenty-five to fifty feet from the boat and set drag and click button as mentioned previously. Remember to play the strike exactly the same as mentioned for the chunk rig. By using a snap swivel connection to the rig, a quick disconnect feature is available. After a blue is caught, it only takes a few seconds to disengage old and attach a new leader to main line for repeated action.

If you examine the map closely, it will be evident that the various bluefish schools that invade the harbors (especially during the fall season) are located directly north and outside, in deep Long Island Sound waters of the various harbors. Thus, if you start fishing outside in the deep areas initially, searching for the blues either with sonar type chart recorders or by visual sightings (example: looking for bird surface indicators) and gradually descend into the harbors, you can efficiently cover the most productive areas at this time of year. Although the blues alternately attack the various harbors looking for bunkers, your chance of success will be at a maximum. Last year during the month of September and October, almost every day reports of bluefish sightings were made alternately inside the harbors. They were sighted inside Huntington Harbor at the ramp, near the Halesite Fire Department dock, near the boat moorings and at the entrance near the bell buoy. Also Lloyd Harbor was a scene of blues near the rock jetty and at the deep entrance channel. Centerport Harbor was another spot, especially near the bridge and at Little Neck Point. At the town dock near Northport Harbor and even deeper inside at the head of the Harbor, many blues were caught. The Cold Spring Harbor dock area—especially at the flood tide—and near boat moorings were active feeding areas. At the ebb, Cooper's Bluff and the Causeway were two excellent locations for consistent results. At Port Jefferson Harbor, the ferry slip was a good location and up and down the harbor deep-water spots—particularly near bunker—were scenes of bluefish attacks. Although most productive fishing (especially near the dock areas) is at early morning and night, the afternoon should not be overlooked. According to the water temperature and seasonal change (blues prefer 54° F. to 68°F). The heavy feeding starts in early September and continued through October, sometimes into November. Two or three northeast storms and rapid cooling of Sound waters usually signals the departure of the blues. Incidentally, the harbor launch ramps are used by residents only during regular season; and at Labor Day (or two weeks thereafter), they are accessible to all for usage. The ramps at Cold Spring Harbor, Oyster Bay, Mill Dam (Huntington Bay), Asharoken, Hobart Beach, Lilco Power plant, Smithtown (Old Dock Road), Stony Brook, and Port Jefferson are a few possibilities for access to this harbor fishing.

For most fishermen, at this time of year the season is coming to a close and now is the time to get that last trip in. It could be your best and most exciting one of the year. So be prepared, assemble your rigs, get some bunker; check tackle carefully for just that particular instance when the water might explode with blues chasing bait fish. Remember to keep a watchful eye on local reports and participate in that fantastic annual fall run fishing experience of catching big choppers inside north shore harbors.

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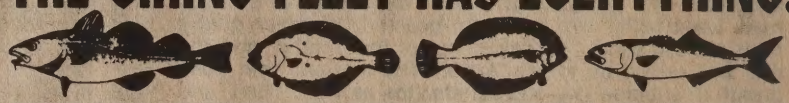

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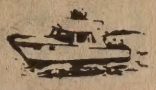

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Ed Kollwedel took the pool aboard the "Viking Star" with this 14½ lb. fluke.

MONTAUK ★ BEST BET ★ BLUES

The weather late in the week put a damper on much of the fishing at the Point, but fishing in general remains very good. Porgies have moved into virtually all of the areas between the Lighthouse and Block Island, a definite sign that the fall run of fish has begun. Fluke fishing has slowed on the north side, as to be expected, but the large doormats are now being taken on the south side during outgoing water. A few weaks at night in the Midway Rips. Big monster blues in very heavy at Cartwright both day and night on herring and diamond jigs. A few good daytime bass catches were made, but nothing that could be relied on...this weekend's full moon should see a change in the night action. Offshore, giant bluefin are still being taken in numbers, but the center of activity has shifted from the Butterfish Hole to Block Island. Still plenty of sharks, and a few big makos.

Capt. Phil Lewis of the charterboat **ADIOS** reported that the fishing is still very good. Although the action may have slacked somewhat for tuna, he did manage to take three yellowfin in the 60 to 80 lb. class one trip. Shark fishing is still pretty good, and a few bass have been showing up inshore.

Maureen at the **Gone Fishing Marina** told us that over the weekend Russ Knorr, Merl Megison and Doc Thorpe got about 500 lbs. of bluefish fishing a few days at Cartwright with diamond jigs. On Saturday Bill and Billie Ricca of Commack got approximately 200 lbs. of blues and a few bonito at Cartwright. On Sunday Maria Lubinska caught a 12-lb. fluke drifting between inner Shagwong and the Point. Maureen said that in general the weather has been held back all but a few boats on Saturday, but Sunday was a big improvement.

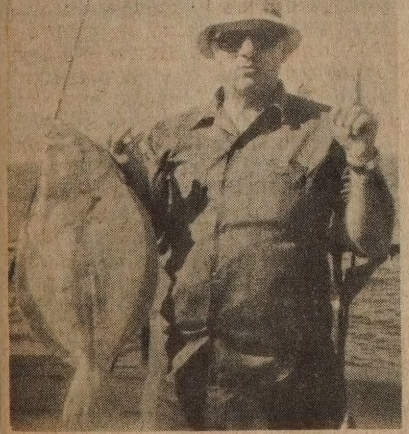
Henry Colombi of the **Star Island Yacht Club** said that the marinas boats are still bagging a lot of giant tuna, but the hotspot has moved from the Butterfish Hole to the ledge southeast of Block Island. Ten giants

were brought in on Tuesday and Wednesday, largest 620 lbs. But the weather in the latter part of the week kept the fishermen closer to home. Bluefishing has busted wide open at the Cartwright Grounds during the day, and the usual herring/drail rig and diamond jigs are both producing monsters in the 14 to 16 lb. class. Henry said that he has a good supply of the whole herring on hand for those that need same. On Thursday the charterboat **Bronco** fished the Canyon and made an impressive catch of 3 rod-and-reel swordfish that ranged up to 165 lbs., 60 dolphin and a 70-lb. wahoo. Bass up to 35-lbs. were taken at dusk Friday night by those trolling long tubes like the Sekora cow killer, a good sign for the Sept. full moon.

Capt. Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Fishing Fleet** reported that the codfishing was good all week at Coxes Ledge and very good on Sunday, with a lot of hangers being taken. Bluefishing at night with herring bait has been excellent at Cartwright and in the Race. It's been a real bail job with bluefish ranging up to 22 lbs. The fluke fishing has been okay but a little picky, with a few big doormats being taken. Porgy fishing remains very good east of the Point.

Capt. Freddy Bird of the **Flying Cloud** reported that the porgy action took a turn for the better during the week, and it looks like the start of the fall run. The porgies are thick in many of the areas between the Point and east to Block Island. On Sunday, Frank Robinson filled a bag with porgies and took the $51 pool with a bonito that decided it wanted to eat a clam. Many of the porgies are big humpbacks, sea bass are big and each day sees a few blackfish, cod and fluke added to the happy anglers' bags.

Capt. Budd Dorman of the **Viking Skipper II** told us that the porgy action ranged from fair to excellent from Monday to Friday, but the fishermen really blitzed the fish on Saturday and



Tom Vassallo, President of the Rams Rod & Reel Club took the pool aboard the "Jigger III" with this 9 lb. fluke.

NATIONAL SCENE

(Continued from page 13.)

provision of catch statistics that will enable the Council to produce accurate plans. One of the alternatives listed is a suggestion from the Mackerel Advisory Subpanel that private boat owners also be required to report. I have opposed this provision on the basis that the expense would be unreasonable and the results unreliable. What action, if any, is taken on that proposal will depend on comments received at the hearings, or by mail. If you're concerned, be sure to show up and speak your piece! Additional information on these plans will be included in upcoming columns.

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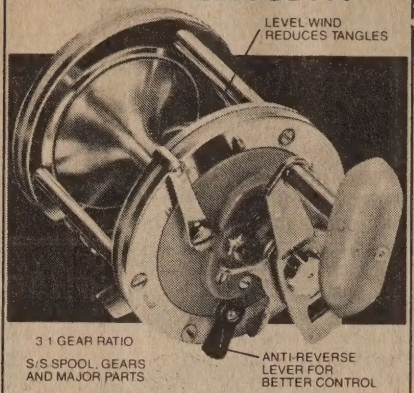

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Frank & George Santucci weighed in this 778 lb. giant tuna at Tuma's Dock which was taken aboard the boat "Breakaway."

Sunday. Sunday was a super day, with all aboard having good catches. Some anglers caught three full buckets of porgies that were mixed sizes. Action can be found on the south side of the Point, the Midway Rips and off Block Island.

Freda at **Cove Marina** was very enthusiastic when she told us that monster bluefish had moved into Cartwright Grounds. During the day, fishermen are bailing blues that range from 14-18 lbs., using whole bunker on drail rigs and diamond jigging. The fish are also thick at night in the same area. Two boats brought in excellent catches of striped bass, taken Sunday morning. Trolling umbrella rigs and casting near the Point, one boat had 30 bass and another had 16 fish that ranged between 12 and 20 lbs. Fluke fishing on the north side has been slowing down, but big doormats to 14 lbs. are now being taken on the south side on outgoing water. A few nice weakfish are being taken at Midway at night and surf casters are loading up on 2-3 lb. bluefish off Culloden Point. Freda also said that there are plenty of small flounder inside the lake and larger fish are beginning to be taken outside.

Capt. Hickey of the charter boat **Triton II** reports excellent bluefishing days and nights, real gorillas up to 21½ lbs. Saturday night's charter for Joe Wass and party of 10 was a bail job on bait at Cartwright. Hickey says it's just super fishing and the anglers pull big blues until their arms get weary.

Capt. Ron on the charter boat **Julie III** and a party from the NYC Transit Authority led by Walter Roth on Saturday, caught 452 lbs. of porgies at the Caswell area. On Sunday, they caught 65 blues from 8-14 lbs. at Cartwright.

Charter **Sea Doll** to report that he had five makos this past week, but that he is now starting inshore bass and blue charters. See Capt. Kelly's ad for details.

SOUTH FORK
★ BEST BET ★
BLUES

SHINNECOCK

Capt. Clark Bellows called to tell us that **Capt. Clark Boats** have seen the blackfishing improving daily. On Saturday, Lewis Rossow won the pool with a 7½ lb. blackfish. A few weakfish remain and the porgy fishing is fair in Peconic Bay. The **Captain Clark II** had fair results with the sea bass fishing ocean wrecks both Saturday and Sunday.

HAMPTON BAYS

Corr's Fishing Station reports fluke still holding in Shinnecock Bay. Many skiffs are taking between 10 and 30 keeper fluke. The fish are more than likely on their way out or will be shortly, as the draggers are working on the outside. Best catches have been in the East Channel at Shinnecock Inlet and off the CG Station. There is good porgy action in Peconic Bay, with Rudy and Robert Williams having roughly 125 medium size porgies and some kingfish at buoy 35 on worms Sunday.

MORICHES BAY

Cerullo Bros. Fishing Station told us that the fluke seem to be leaving the area, but there are still a few good catches being made in the inlet and also in the East Cut. One boat found a couple of dozen nice blueclaw crabs around buoy 23. On Sunday, plenty of bluefish were taken trolling right

This 330 lb. mako was taken 120° south of Moriches Inlet by Fred Getty. Photo courtesy of L&M Marine.

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outside the inlet. There are just a few flounder starting to show, but the fishing is nothing substantial as of yet.

Al Lassen of the **Hi-Way Fishing Station** also reported that the fluke fishing has been slow. Best action is around the inlet fishing live killies and squid with a bobber. Blueclaw crabs are being taken in the coves, along with all the snappers you ever wanted. Flounder action in the bay is only fair, with the fish ranging from small to large. Betty Povolny fished by herself two days and took 18 and 25 flounder respectively in the buoy 36 area.

Skidmore's Fishing Station called to say that they are starting to catch a mixed variety of fish now. Most of the action is now in the deeper water around buoys 42 and 44, with anglers catching a mixed bag of sea bass, porgies, some fluke and small bluefish. Steve reported that the flounder fishing has started but is not yet in full swing by any means. But the drop in water temperature in the last couple of days may see an improve ment in this area within the next 10 days or so. Fluke are still around to be caught, but not in great numbers.

Pat Riggio and 12-year-old daughter, Jean fished 2 miles southeast of the C buoy and boated 10 nice blues on wire and umbrellas. A trip back the next day with pal Tom Castagna to about one mile off Smith's Point Pavilion, they again took some small blues.

Bill at **East Moriches Bait and Tackle** gives us the winners of the Great Gun Anglers shark tournament held Saturday, in which 84 boats participated. First prize of $2,000 went to Capt. Geo. Keenan on his boat 564, with a 236 lb. blue shark; 2nd prize of $1,000 - Capt. Lou Pastori, on the boat Consultation with a 229 lb. tiger shark; 3rd prize $500 - Capt. Dave Mahler on his boat, The Rogue, with a 146 lb. mako.

GREAT SOUTH BAY
★ BEST BET ★
BLUES

MASTIC BEACH

Stiriz's Fishing Station reports blueclaw crabs very good, with the snappers bigger now and biting very well, especially at the bridge. One of the boats that docks there had roughly 40 blues up to 15 lbs. in 70 ft. of water at the C buoy out of Moriches Inlet, jigging.

Gary at **State Channel Marina East** tells us that fluking has been fair at the CG Station and lighthouse on sand eels. Lots of blues on the outside in 55-60 ft. of water off Cherry Grove on trolled umbrellas with bonito and skipjack mixed in. A few small blacks being taken under the bridges on Sunday on squid; fish up to 2 lbs.

SAYVILLE

Vinnie at **Young's Fishing Station** reports lots of weaks on squid or Hopkins bounced on the bottom at the shell beds about 1½ miles off Sayville. Very good catches also made behind the clam dredges on weekdays. Still a good showing of fluke from Ocean Beach on west. A few fluke off the Station, all on squid and sand eels. Kings and a few blowfish in with the weaks. A few small bass at East Island, taken on fluke rigs.

WEST SAYVILLE

South Bay Fishing Station tells of a few fluke at buoys 6, 28 and 29, on sand eels and killies. Lots of snappers around. A few weaks being taken, scattered in amongst the bluefish at the Inlet.

BAY SHORE

Charter boat **Sea Bird** called to tell us that Tue. night's charter for the Pequa Rifle Pistol and Fishing Club zapped roughly 1200 lbs. of big blues, fishing in 80 ft. of water south of the lighthouse on bait and chum. Nancy Hunter of North Babylon took the pool with a 15 lb. blue. Capt. Ron says he has several openings which are choice dates. See his ad for details.

The **Casey Lee** reports good fluking during the week, roughly 3-6 keepers per man, fish averaging 2-3 lbs. Best areas have been from Snake Hill Channel to the Inlet on killies, squid and sand eels on the last of the flood and the first of the ebb.

Smokey's Bait and Tackle tells us that Rich Ferry, Woody Bradley, had 30 blues in the 2-5 lb. range Sunday on their boat Rum and Coke fishing in 60 ft. of water on umbrellas. This was in the Surf Side 3 bluefish tournament.

Peppi, with a 9 lb. 4 oz. blue. Michael Cioffi picked up a 6 lb. 5 oz. blue. Blues in 90 ft. of water southeast of the tower in the 4-15 lb. range along with bonito being chummed and trolled. Fluke good on the last of the flood on sand eels and squid west of the Moses Bridge and at Snake Hill Channel. Weaks behind the clam dredges have been a good item from 2-8 lbs. on squid strips, Jelly Worms and live snappers. A sprinkling of porgies and kings east in the bay around Sayville. Blackfish showing on fiddlers at the inside reef. Twenty-two weakfish Sunday for Joe Guarisco of Brentwood fishing behind the clam dredges with a white bucktail.

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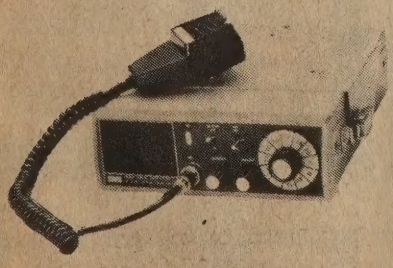

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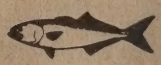

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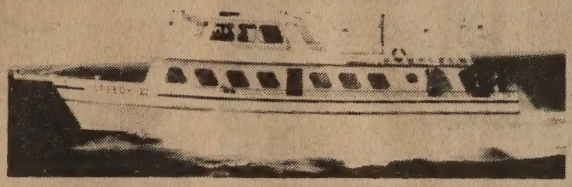

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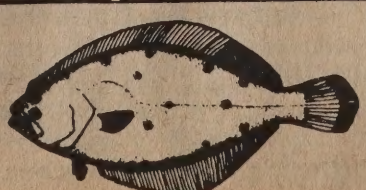


CAPTREE

Capt. George Tweedy of the **Capt. Scotty** reported that he has been taking huge bluefish that range from 8 to 15 lbs., fishing over ocean wrecks. When the fish are found on the beach around Ocean Beach, they range from 1½ to 7 lbs. and the anglers load up on them with diamond jigs. The fishing Friday night was a real bonanza but the action Saturday was very poor in the northwest winds. George said that he is now fishing exclusively for blues, running two trips daily.

The **Capt. Ben Litwin** called to say that although the fluking has picked up these last two weeks, by customer demand they are switching over now to blackfish and sea bass.

Charter boat **Lady Ann** reports that the fluke charters averaging 5 fish per man in the 2-3 lb. range have been doing best on the last of the flood and the first of the ebb, anywhere from Fl Inlet to Snake Hill Channel on sand eels, squid and killies. The ocean reef has produced fair to good action on sea bass and porgies. Night bluefishing continues a total slaughter, with days now also becoming very productive. Friday's day charter saw 19 men take over 200 blues over an offshore wreck in 105 feet of water on jigs and on bait. These were all giant fish. Friday night's charter accounted for over 400 blues in the 3-10 lb. range. Neil says best bluefishing since Noah's Ark.

BABYLON

Augie's Bait and Tackle tells of Teddy Brengel's 680 lb. tiger shark brought in Sunday night which was taken at the Texas Tower. Fluking has been a little less than fair, while albacore are being taken at Cholera. Good catches of flounder up to 1½ lbs along with a good showing of blackfish at the artificial reef, the Sore Thumb and at the bridges. Flounders on worms and blacks on fiddlers.

Hi Hook Fishing Station tells us that Al of New Jersey boated 11 nice keeper fluke on Sun. from one of their skiffs fishing at the CG Station with sand eels and squid. The other skiffs all took snappers from a half pound on up.

Babylon Fishing Station reports Marge and Eddie Langstone of Babylon had 17 fluke up to 7 plus lbs., fishing in front of the CG Station with killie and squid combos, best being two hours before the high. Loads of snappers around the first bridge, 50-60 for any skiff trying. Some fluke in Snake Hill, but the best between the lighthouse and CG Station. Porgies at the wreck buoy off Kismet along with some blowfish.

SOUTH SHORE BAYS

★ BEST BET ★ BLUES

LINDENHURST

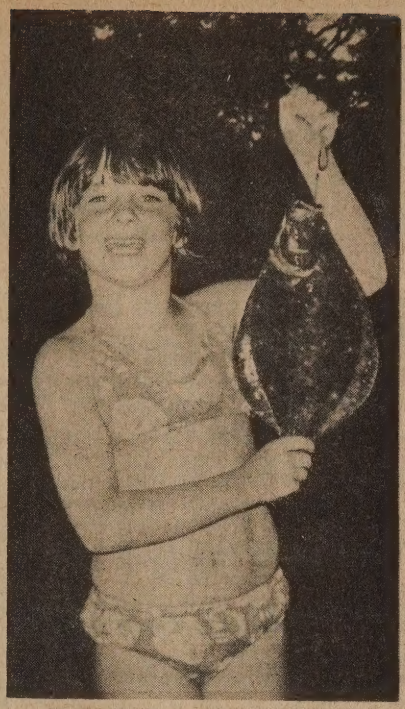
Charlie's Bait and Tackle reports there are still very good catches of blues anywhere from 3-30 miles out for trollers, chummers and jiggers. Fluking remains good at the Inlet on killies and squid. Porgies, sea bass and blowfish being caught at the Hole in front of the lighthouse on clam and worm. Loads of snappers still around. Blueclaws are picky with half dozen being a good catch.

COPIAGUE

Larry at **Bait and Tackle Unlimited** reports flounder are being caught off the Copiague Beach and at the Copiague hole on sand worms and clam. Porgies in the same place, same way and in volume. These are sand porgies. Loads of snappers on spearing. Weaks off the CG Station on sand worms and live snappers. The weaks are 8-12 lbrs and are hitting best early in the morning on 3x3 rigs. Fluke from the lighthouse to the CG Station in the 2-3 lb. range on squid and killies with a good number of doormats at the inlet on live snappers. Blues at Fl Inlet on umbrellas in the 9-14 lb. range in 80 ft. of water for chummers with tinker mackerel on the hook. Some bonito are being taken as well.

AMITYVILLE

George Combs Bait and Tackle reports fluke from the bridge to the mouth of the inlet on killies or killie/squid combos. Some also being taken in Great Island Channel and in the State Channel from the Jones Beach piers to the Meadowbrook Bridge. Porgies and a few kingfish in the East-west channel from the Amityville cut to the Copiague hole on worms and squid. Blackfish showing at the bridges and the reefs on green crab working best. Blues at the inlet head buoy for trollers and also at Cholera along with albies on Saturday. Some blueclaw crabs in Seaford Creek.



Nicole McDermott, 7, caught this 16" fluke on a sand eel in Moriches Bay aboard her Dad's boat. Subscriber Club photo.

SEAFORD

Lon Wanser Bait and Tackle reports loads of snappers on small shiners, killies or small tins. Fluke seem to be schooling now at the inlet and they should be feeding well by the end of the week. Porgies being caught along the Massapequa shore line, Massapequa Cove and Florence Beach from ½ to ¾ lbs. on worm and clam. Cholera continues to hold the bluefish and albacore. Weaks at the bridges on snapper fished on a 3x3 rig, with Lon weighing in an 11 lb. 8 oz. tiderunner during the week.

Capt. Eddie's Fishing Station says lots of snappers around, with a few fluke being taken by the bridge on squid and killies. Flounders being caught at Massapequa Cove along with a few kingfish up to ¾ lbs. at the bridges also.

BELLMORE

Bronco the singing dog at **Merrick Marine Tackle Center** tells us that flounders are beginning to be caught now in the deep holes in the bay on worms and clam. Fluke has been spotty, but they are still picking away in the inlet. Snappers are getting bigger and remain plentiful. Blues at Cholera for chummers and trollers. Some bass being plugged along the bay marshes on silver poppers.

MERRICK

On Saturday, Dick Rubin, Ken House and Mike Bennett, 3 stalwarts of the East Bay Anglers aboard Dick's boat El Piscador, on Saturday got 23 bonito and albacore in the 7-15 lb. range along with one bluefish on feathers and Cedar jigs fishing just SE of Cholera.

The infamous G. Korn stopped at our office on Tuesday and in a gambling frame of mind, bet us that we couldn't guess how many fish he

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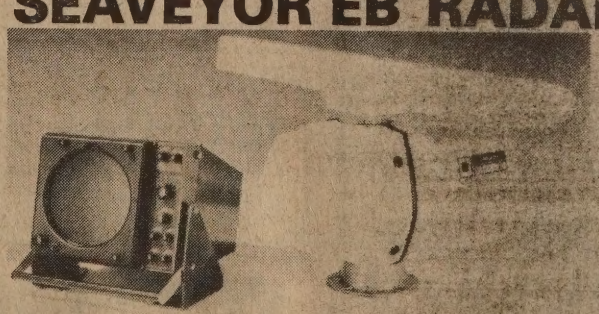

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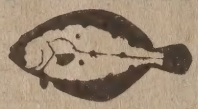
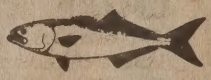


BLUES
FLUKE
WEAKS



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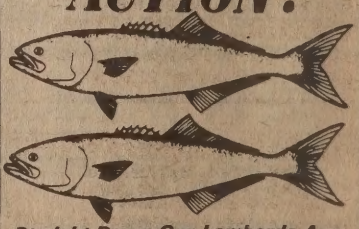

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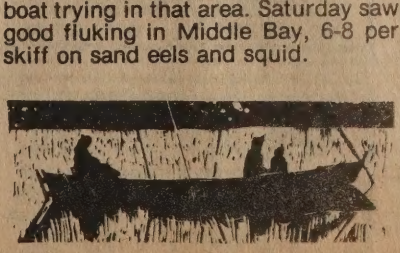
caught that day. He challenged us with the comment "If you can guess the number of fish in my fish box, I'll give you both of them." We guessed and won. Poor G. Korn.

Nick's Fishing Station reports lots of snappers all around on small tins and shiners or killies on a float. Fluke spotty, though some have been picked up from Merrick Point up to the golf course.

BALDWIN

Andy at **Arthur Street Fishing Station** tells us that Paul and Allen Barker boated 9 weaks and some small blues fishing south of Jones Inlet, jigging off the pink hotel in 30 ft. of water. Good blueclaw crabbing in the flats in Middle Bay; an average of 2-3 dozen of the critters for any boat trying in that area. Saturday saw good fluking in Middle Bay, 6-8 per skiff on sand eels and squid.



WEST END SOUTH SHORE
★BEST BET★ BLUES

FREEPORT

Anthony's Fishing Station tells us that two men in a rental skiff bagged 36 flounder on bloodworms, fishing at the entrance at the CG Station in the inlet. 15 blackfish were brought in in another boat, which fished fiddlers at the Meadowbrook Bridge pilings during the week. There are snappers galore. One skiff managed 4 fluke early Sat. in Reynold's Channel. Another good bet is weakfish at most of the bridges at night on worms fished off the bottom or live snapper.

"Tuna" Joe Long of the charter boat **Nite Owl** called to tell us that he's been unable to find a tuna since 4 big tuna clippers moved into our offshore area last week. However, Saturday's charter for Bert Lily and party bagged albacore up to 15 lbs. and a box full of bonito. Sunday's charter for Vince Russo and party (which included the great Joe Oswald) bagged 6 albies and a load of bonito and then took a mess of sea bass off an offshore wreck.

Capt. Tony of the **Miss Freeport** called to report that on Friday, he enjoyed a good catch of fluke in the inlet and that high hook was 12 fluke. This Monday through Sunday the boat is sailing as an open boat. No charters this weekend. Sailing time will be 7:30 a.m., so Tony says come on down for your last shot at the fluke.

Capt Mike Miller on the **Apus** called to say that the bluefishing

Part of catch of load of blues taken at Cholera for Marv and family, of Mid-Center Drugs, aboard Capt. Dave Mahler's "The Rogue" out of Freeport.

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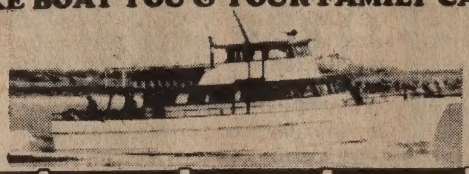

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★7 PM★ FRI. & SAT. **BLUES** ★7 PM★ FRI. & SAT.

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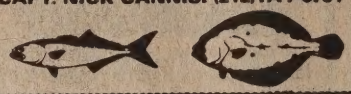

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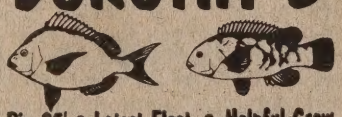

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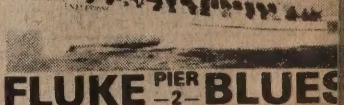
7 PM DAILY *(Exc. Sun.)*

ENTERPRISE



FLUKE – PIER 2 – BLUES

★ 8AM DAILY ★ — 7PM DAILY

7:30 AM Sat., Sun., Hol.

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Galley • Tackle • Bait • Ladies Accomm.

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"Tuna" Joe Long, skipper of Freeport's Nite Owl and a day's catch of charlies he trolled up recently.

continues to be excellent chumming at Cholera to the tune of 5-30 fish per man, with outgoing tide being best. Sharking remains slow, with only small browns and duskies being tagged this week. Offshore trolling, is fortunately, very good and picks up the slack in the sharking. Many false albacore, skippies and bluefin tuna were taken all week, most of the action at the 85 ft. mark.

Capt. Bill on the charter boat **Ivory Queen** called to tell us that on Wed., Mike Mattei and party found the HA area alive with fish and managed to take three tuna while losing two. Four bonito were also boated. On Saturday, in heavy seas, they struck out with tuna but managed to bag 25 skippies and 9 bonito for Tony C. and party. Sunday's charter for Jim Caruso had a good day with 32 chopper blues and 5 bonito at the Cholera, with Sal Sperlazza high hook with 12 fish.

The Blue Fin I and II , driven by Capts. Sy Karlin and Charlie Adams stayed with bluefish this past week, working Ambrose and Cholera for fihs fish 2-7 lbs. Excellent fishing with bonito mixed in. Sunday's high hook was in the 20s by Bob Peters of the Hudson Bay Fishing Club. Thursday's high hook was in the teen for a charter from the NYC Transit Police. Bait is mainly smelt and butterfish.

The charter boat **The Rogue** called to tell us that Sunday's shark charter produced a 200 lb. hammerhead which took with it two stern rod holders. Labor Day's bluefish charter saw over 300 lbs. of fish from 5-10 lbs. Mixed in were Spanish mackerel, skippies and blues. Tuna has been productive with some yellowfin up to 30 lbs. Shark fishing still is the best bet for this past week, due to the drop in water temperature. The Rogue was the third place winner in the Great Gun Anglers annual shark tourney this weekend with a mako of 146 lbs. The fish struck by surprise while Capt. Dave and crew were attempting to bait a 12-ft. white shark, which was 2 ft. off the port side of the boat.

Charter boat **Pisces** called to say that the several trips taken this past week have been extremely productive on chummed blues and bonito.

Sea Isle Sports tells us that he' selling a lot of worms to people now after flounder. Snappers are bigger and fatter than ever and are still abundant with many of the baby blues being taken from Guy Lombardo Marina at the south end of South Grove St. The change of tide is the best. Another good bet is weaks at the bridges on live snapper.

Freeport Boatmen's Association reports almost all of the Association boats fished blues, bonito and albies this past week and weekend, with all boats concentrating in the Cholera area along with Three Sisters and the Angler Banks. Fish were trolled and chummed. An 80 lb. mako was taken on the Bigfoot Sat. in 135 ft. of water. There are still a few openings for the Nite Owl II Cod Wreck Trip, leaving September 18. See their ad for details. During the week, the Nite Owl II after bailing blues, picked a load of big sea bass off of an offshore wreck.

The **Acme II** with Capt. Ronnie at the wheel, skippered Bill Russell and party from Massapequa out to Cholera for night blues on Fri. night and they bailed almost 300 blues in the 3-5 lb. range. Sunday's charter for Jim O'Keefe and party had a steady pick at Cholera on blues, ending up with 2 barrels of 3-5 lb. fish.

Capt. Richie of the **Starstream II** reports excellent bluefishing on both night and day trips. The fish are running from 2-7 lbs. with an occasional larger fish. A few bonito and albacore have been mixed in with these blues that are being baited at the Cholera Banks. When the school is really active, these fish are also being taken on jigs and Bananas. High hook on these trips has been up in the thirties.

The Capt. Al reports that on Friday the boat slaughtered the bluefish at the Cholera Banks. These fish are being baited and are running from 2-8 lbs. Saturday, the fishing was still good and on Sunday, the pool was taken by a 10 lber. The boat has been averaging 200 to 300 fish per trip and

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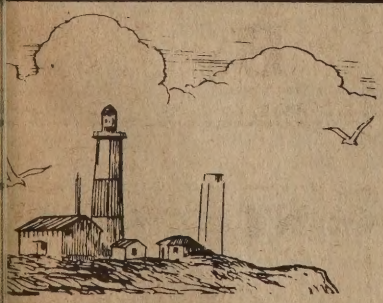

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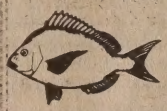

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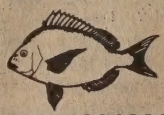

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Adrian, Mark and Jeff Levine of Jericho show some of their catch of bluefish taken aboard Capt. Arnold's "Shalidon" out of Freeport. Mom, Elaine, also took a few fish. These fish were taken on umbrella rigs 5 miles S.E. of Jones Inlet.

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CLAIRE II

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bonito have been mixed in with th catches. The captain said that this i some of the best bait fishing so fa this year.

POINT LOOKOUT

Ed's Fishing Station reports fluk fishing has dropped off over th weekend, with most action being ha in the flats and at the mouth of th Inlet. There are lots of sea bass an sand porgies to be had at buoys 16, 1 and back in the flats. Crabbing is als best in the flats. Snappers ar plentiful in the area and a fe flounder are being picked up at th CG Station. Bluefish and bonito up t 15½ lbs. are being trolled in 80 ft. c water offshore.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Henning's Fishing Station reports good fluke fishing from the bridge to buoy 1. Fish up to 11¾ lbs. have come out of this area and are being taken on squid, spearing and sand eels. Fluke averaging 3-4 lbs. are also being taken at the Inlet and at buoy 8. Bluefish have been in and out of the inlet and are hitting fluke bait. Bigger blues can be found offshore. Blackfish, sea bass and flounder are starting up and some good action should be had this fall. Snappers are also in the area and are getting bigger and bigger.

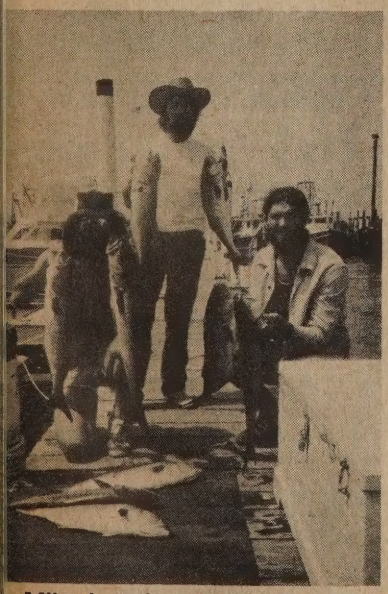
JAMAICA BAY

Cross Bay Bait and Tackle reports that weakfish are being picked up at the North Channel Bridge and the Rockaway surf. Greg Dielawski took 2 weakfish of 7½ and 7¾ lbs. fishing a Hopkins Shorty. Alfonso Perez took a weak of 9 lbs. 4 oz. on bunker bait. Porgy and snapper activity has been good at the North Channel Bridge. Blackfish are starting to show and are being taken on fiddlers at Rockaway and the Marine Parkway Bridge.

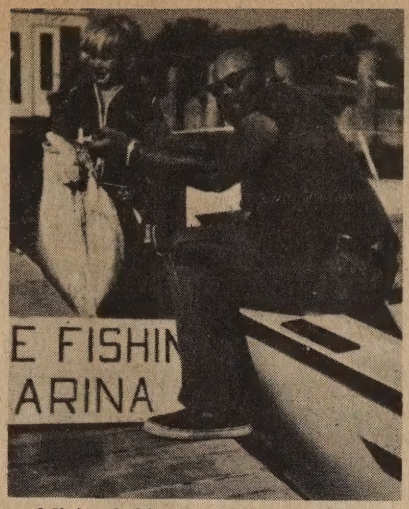
T&G Bait and Tackle reports lots of porgies and snappers being caught off the North and South Channel Bridges on worms and shiners. Good size blueclaw crabs being caught off the North Channel Bridge. Nighttime is producing good action on blues and weaks off these bridges on chunk bait and on worms.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Capt. Kevin of the **Dorothy B** called to tell us that although the fluke action has picked up again, he is now hanging over completely to blacks, sea bass and porgies. He will not be



Mike Loomis and friends with bluefish taken on the Hampton Bays charter boat Lucky Strike. Subscriber Club photo.



Michael Hesse, 4½-years-old, with a 9½ lb. fluke caught on his grandfather's boat, fishing Outer Shagwong with squid and sand eels during the outgoing tide. Subscriber Club photo.

bluefishing anymore this season.

Capt. Joe Miller of the **Atomic II** reports that it is nothing short of a bluefish slaughter every night, 30-50 blues a man, all on bait and chum. Joe says this is the best bluefishing in at least 10 years. His day trips for fluke range from fair to good, working from Sandy Hook Channel to Ambrose with fish of good size. Some fares are getting 15-18 keepers and there are a lot of 3 lb. fish.

The Elsie K III reports good fluke fishing at Sandy Hook and Ambrose Channel. On Sunday, Mike the Cleaner took a doormat of 7 lbs. 8 oz. The pool fish is being consistently taken by a 6-7 lb. fish. Catches are averaging 6-7 fish per person in the 3 lb. range taken on sand eels and spearing.

The Big Mohawk II reports that on Friday night the Power Engineers of New York headed by Warren Rupp fished Ambrose Tower and took 250 bluefish from 2-4 lbs. on bunker and smelt. On Saturday, the Manufacturers-Hanover Trust Fishing Club fished at the Cholera Banks and took 180 bluefish. Average catches ran 12-15 fish per man and baits used were bunker and smelt for bluefish

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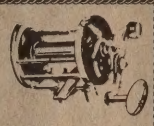

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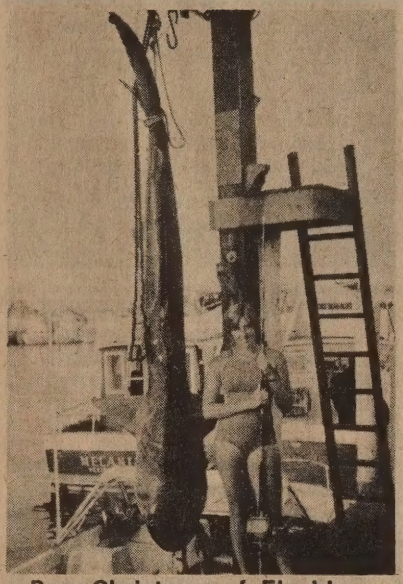

Pam Christman of Flushing with a 293 lb. dusky shark taken off Montauk Point. Subscriber Club photo.

and spearing for bonito. Saturday night, the boat did well at Ambrose Tower, 17 Fathoms and at the Farms. On Sunday, the N.Y.P.C.O. Company headed by Vincent Montanpi fished out at Ambrose Tower and took 127 bluefish from 6-8 lbs. and a dozen bonito from 4-6 lbs. The boat's last open date for night trips this year is September 22; call for info.

The Zephyr has been doing a consistent job on the porgies. Fishermen have been filling one-half to a full five gallon pail with porgies up to 1¼ lbs. These fish are being taken at the Tin Can Grounds and off the Rockaways.

STATEN ISLAND

Santo's Sport Shop reports that surf fishermen are fishing piers 8, 17 and 18 to Ft. Wadsworth to Princess Bay for snappers and cocktail blues. These fish are plentiful and are taking shiny lures and spearing. You can also fish worms in this area for some nice sized sand porgies. South Beach is producing weakfish off the beach at night. These fish are running 6-8 lbs. and are taking sand worms or Atom and Gibb Swimmers. Bluefish from 8-10 lbs. are also being taken here. Great Kills Park is producing keeper sized fluke on squid and sand eels from the jetty. Blueclaw crabs are being taken in the traps in Great Kills Harbor. The Middle Grounds and Princess Bay is producing bluefish from 3-5 lbs. and occasional weakfish from 6-8 lbs. Hoffman Island, Swinburne Island and the base of the VZ Bridge is producing 3-4 schoolie bass during the outgoing tide on worms.

PECONICS & GARDINERS
★ BEST BET ★
BLUES

GREENPORT

A. P. White Bait Shop reports that porgy fishing remains good in the area. Bluefish are being picked up in the Race, Pigeon Rip and the north side of Plum Island. Blackfish from 4-7 lbs. can be found in the Sound and taken on fiddlers and green crabs. Flounder up to 3 lbs. are hitting worms and clams at Orient.

SOUTHOLD

Port of Egypt reported flounders moving into the bay. There are some small fish around the mouth of places like Goose Creek. Bigger fish are by Orient Point State Park. Over the weekend there were some catches of 35 fish to 1½ lbs. Private boats out of Orient got blues on the ebb tide last week in Pigeon Rip. Bass fishing is slow. One good spot for porgies is off Green Hills on the east side of Gardiner's Island.

NEW SUFFOLK

Capt. Marty's Fishing Station reports that porgies and kingfish are taking worms and clams at the Obstruction Buoy on the west side of

John Sideris of the Bronx took this 22 lb. 4 oz. bluefish, fishing Mattituck Inlet with a Striper Swiper. Subscriber Club photo.

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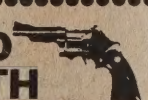

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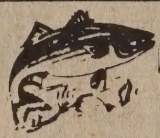

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Fish Talk: MR. JAWS

(Continued from page 6.)

after pass. They would push what looked like a wall of water with their heads as they attacked and the sight of the gaping jaw studded with row after row of serrated teeth lifted above the water, poised for the attack, sent a cold chill down my spine.

THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE GREAT WHITE! Only one shark attacks this way. Only one shark has the power of the white. A mako has speed and can jump, providing thrills and exictement for the sportsmen—but there is only one great white shark. There is no warning before their attacks; they suddenly appear, the way these sharks did in this film. They do not circle endlessly until they are worked up for the kill. The decision is made and the shark attacks: quickly, efficiently, and with gusto. It is a remarkable animal. I wouldn't like to meet up with one in the water, but I give the beast credit for what it is. As far as I'm concerned it can have the ocean to rule as it see fit; for I will neither challenge it on the high seas nor call for its destruction. The shark nets of Australia have put a serious dent in the world's populations of sharks. This, according to leading shark experts. The shark is a dangerous and fearsome creature, but it deserves to live and complete Nature's appointed tasks. I can't help thinking that the desire for man to swim in the ocean isn't sufficient reason to annihilate such beauty. Long live Mr. Jaws!

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Robin's Island. Bluefish are also being taken west of Robin's Island on the troll. These fish are averaging about 1½ lbs

AQUEBOGUE

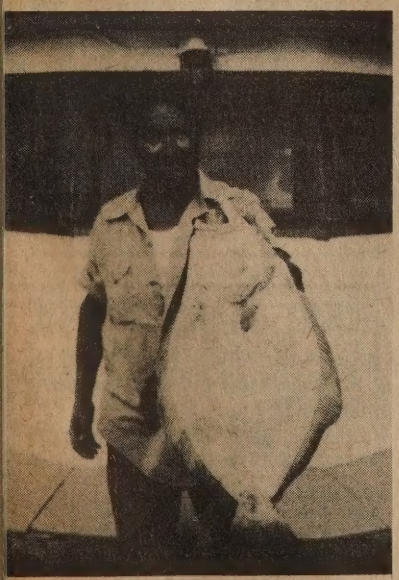
Warren's Tackle Center reported blues taken consistently last week trolling umbrella rigs between buoy 5 and Horton's Point. No one color tube worked better than the rest. Porgies are just east of Mattituck Inlet. One customer brought in a trigger fish. There's weaks in the bay, but remember they must be 12 inches or you can't keep them. One boat had 35 kingfish about 12 inches long. Only bass brought in were two 8 lbrs taken dunking worms on the bottom at night. Blackfishing is coming alive again.

NOYAC

Noyac Marina reports the best bet there is porgies, with action up one day and down the next and the same with a scattering of school weaks. The best bet though is porgies, most being fillet size. Of course, snappers are in abundance.

PECONICS

Speck's Bait and Tackle reports that Three Mile Harbor was fished by Mr. W. Shelly and wife of New Jersey, zapping 300 plus porgies on clam and squid in the 1-2 lb. range on Sunday. Snappers are a big number on sand eels. Fluking remains good at Gardiner's, Cartwright, the ruins and Shagwong. Blues still active morning and evenings in Shinnecock Inlet. Bass action should pick up this weekend with the moon.



The cook "Milty" on board the "north Star" knew what to feed the fish and came up with this 14 lb. fluke.

Fred, Freddy and Ann Ring and Moe and Don Dehe caught these 36 blues and 1 weakfish fishing Lloyd's Point with Ava and Tri-Fin jigs. Subscriber Club photo.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND ★ BEST BET ★ BLACKS

ROCKY POINT

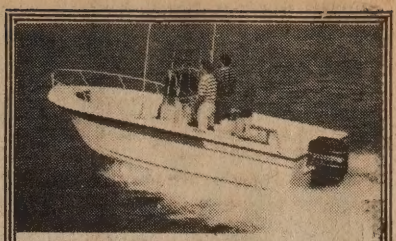
Rocky Point Fishing Stop reports good bluefishing off Sound Beach in 35 ft. of water. Fishermen that braved the wind on Saturday did very well with these fish. On Sunday, blues and bonito were taken trolling at Buoy 9. On Saturday, some bass action started up offshore with fish up to 10 lbs. taking sand worms. Snappers are all over the beaches and are getting bigger and porgies are holding their own. A lot of blackfish averaging 2 lbs. are starting to be taken on fiddlers at Wading River.

MT. SINAI HBR.

Ralph's Fishing Station reports some bigger bluefish are now being taken off the Harbor and at buoys 9 and 11. Porgies are doing well in the Sound and are taking worms and clams. Small blackfish are starting to be picked up off of local beaches.

PORT JEFFERSON

Caraftis Fishing Station reported it's been no problem catching a mess of porgies. This has been one of the best years size-wise for porgies. Old Field is still the best bet. Still lots of blues around 4 lbs going for trolled umbrellas. Once in awhile, the fish pop into Miller Place or West Meadow Beaches where the surf fishermen taken some with popping plugs. This is the perfect time of year for snappers.



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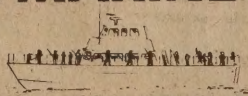

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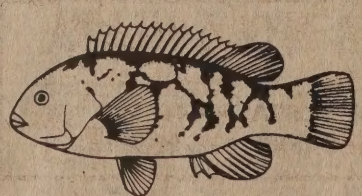

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1976 Columbia Hardtop Sportsfisherman 30x11. 120 h.p. Ford Diesel FWC, 3 gal. per hour. Cruises 15mph. Forward & Stern controls & steering. Gemtronics White Line Recorder; VHF, CB. Many extras. Complete package. Good for 6-man charter, commercial or family use. No fancies. All solid fishing. Boat made for Montauk Rips. Now in Bklyn. New boat condition. For full information or appointment, call: Charles Parker, 212-441-6230. Price—$17,500.

37' CHRIS CRAFT. Documented Sportfisherman. 2 - 265 Palmers, 320 gal. cap. Flybridge with enclosure. 16 mile Radar Sonar recorder, mile spotlight. Ideal windlass, VHF & CB radios. Gin pole; Lee outriggers. 2 sailfish chairs; 1 Rockaway chair with foot rest. Saltwater wash-down, Pompanette fishbox. Sleeps 6; shower; pressure water system; electric refrigerator, freezer and stove. Many more extras. 212-431-5650. 9-5.

34' CHRISOVITSCH

Twin 350 FWC Chris Craft engines. New Sitex; VHF; CB. Dual controls; 2 fishing chairs. Bimini top. Much, much more. $10,500. 516-549-5533.

MAKO 17' 1972 with Bimini top and pony motor bar bracket. Top condition. Excellently maintained. Rod rack; foamed-in tank; pedestal seats. $1950. EDDIE'S MARINE. 516-FA 7 3168.

30' OLSON FLYBRIDGE SKIFF. Fully rigged for offshore & Montauk rips. Oak ribs, cedar planking, teak deck. Gin pole, Rockaway fighting chair. Electric winch, full electronics, paper machine. 35 hrs. on completely rebuilt freshwater cooled 300 h.p. crusader. New Morse controls. Custom tackle chest/ice box. Customized cabin. Must see to appreciate. In water at Cove Marina, Montauk. For information, call 9-5 PM. 212-CH 4-5312.

1977 22' AQUASPORT FAMILY FISHERMAN. 1977 155 Merc. 1977 20 h.p. Merc. Head; downriggers; 2 rod holders, 2 outrigger rod holders. New CB, VHF, Gemtronics white line recorder. Depth flasher; spotlight; compass; 2 fishbox seats. Full canvas, winter cover. Must sell. Bought larger boat. In water at Point Lookout. 516-536-0842.

33' Southwest Harbor (Maine Design). Sleeps 8; 225 Gray Marine, 100 hrs. Stand-up head; galley; radio, depth recorder; compass; fighting chair; flybridge. All accessories included $2500. Islip, Day: 212-676-2752. After 7:30 p.m.: 516-242-2676.

18' Sharpie. Excellent condition. 7½' beam with 55 Horse Johnson engine. Bottom Fiberglassed. Very strong boat. $700. Day: 212-676-2752. After 7:30 p.m.: 516-242-2676.

GRADY WHITE—New 1977 21' "Chesapeake" Cuddy Cabin. 140 h.p. OMC. Never again price!! Full canvas. $8830. Full factory warranties. Perfect family boat. EDDIE'S MARINE. 516-FA 7-3168.

17' Pro Line 1974, Fiberglas Deep V. Ct. Console w/60 h.p. outboard. Excellent for fishing. Great condition. Asking: $2000 or reasonable offer. Days: 914-472-5130. Eves: 472-3584.

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2-$228; 4-$319; 6-$457; 9.9-$580; 15-$670; 25-$780; 35-$880; 55-$1320; 70-$1498; 85-$1736; 115-$1836; 140-$1950; 150-$2600; 175-$2688; 200-$2800; 235-$2940. ELECTRA MARINE, 610 Merrick Rd., Lynbrook, NY. Scott & McCulloch Parts. FOB. Call: 516-599-3003.

SEACRAFT SF-23, Mercruiser, I/O 110 gal., head console; tracking Loran; Ross Recorder; VHF, CB; flow meter, Sea Temp., padding. Bimini. Murray chair in bow. Circulating well. $10,000. 516-286-9660.

1972 BROWNING 18' Bowrider, 125 Johnson with power tilt. 1976 Shoreline Galvanized Trailer. Full canvas; Coast Guard equipment. Extras. Very good condition. LOW HOURS. $3150. Call evenings: 516-379-1550.

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Genuine Harpoon Dart Belt Buckle. Solid Bronze. Same dart that tips the harpoons of all of L.I.'s shark charter boats. A rugged, good looking buckle. Will last a lifetime. Send $9.95 plus $.50 post. & handl., to; P. Miller, 150 Babylon Tpke., Merrick, NY 11566.

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FISHING RODS—Custom built for all purposes. From spinners to 130 lb. sticks. Some rods in stock or will make matched sets with your choice of guides, thread colors, hardware, etc. Rods can be personalized at no extra charge. 516-883-6231. Evenings.

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ATTENTION FISHERMEN...Cleaning out stock. All new rods, reels, line, sinkers, hooks, etc...at low, low prices. Call 516-997-7438 for info.

2 Harnell 130 lb. class Tuna Poles. One 14/0 and one 16/0 reels recently double-wrapped and refinished. Excellent condition. Reels ready to go. Call: 212-847-7765 after 6PM.

PORGY KILLER RIGS—The 3-hook meat fisherman's rig that makes the porgies wake up in a cold sweat. Mustad Gold beaks and 40 lb. snells and leaders. All hand-tied. $4 for 3 rigs. Finest kind. Send to: P. Miller, 150 Babylon Tpke., Merrick, NY 11566.

FLUKE KILLER RIGS. Deadly, double hook design, long the secret weapon of the "Pros." You'll hook more and lose fewer fish, since fluke can't avoid adjustable tail hook. Each rig hand-tied, using finest materials. 3 rigs for $3.50. P. MILLER, 150 Babylon Tpke., Merrick, NY 11566. Pays for itself in fluke dinners.

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Electrify your rod winding bench. $29.95 N.Y. Res. 7% tax (Motor, foot pedal, adaptor). Rod building component catalog - $1. Rebatable with purchase. MERRICK TACKLE, 2370 Merrick Rd., Bellmore, NY 11710.

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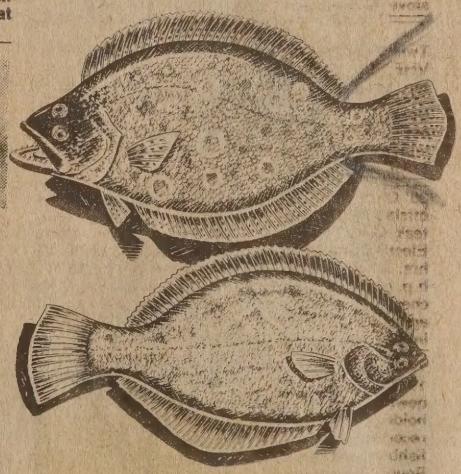

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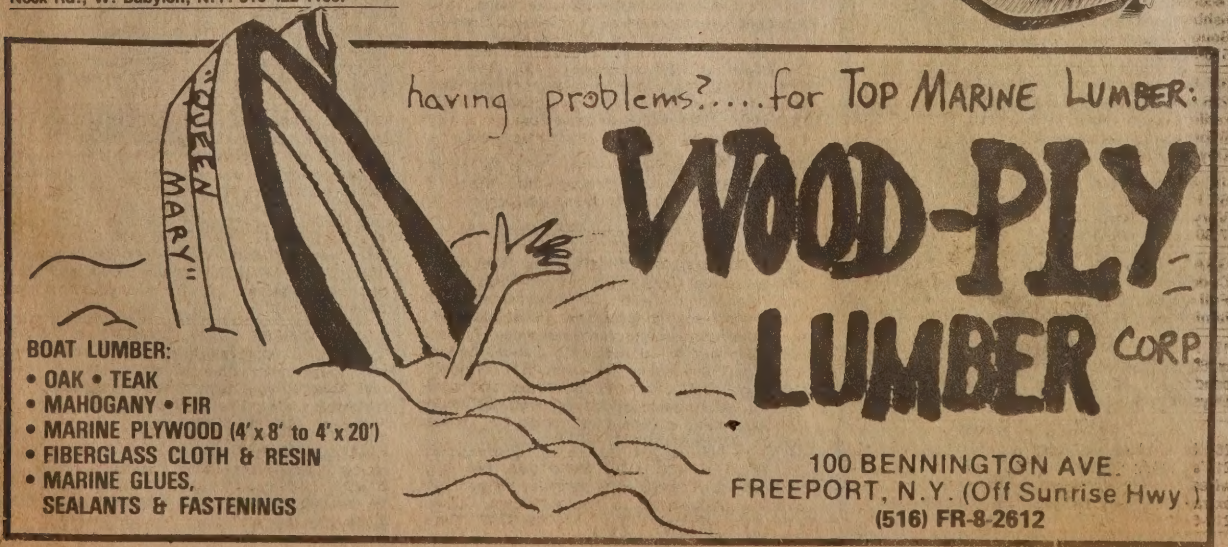

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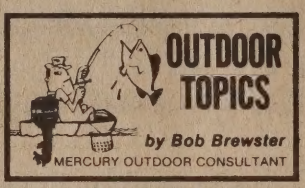


OUTDOOR TOPICS

by Bob Brewster
MERCURY OUTDOOR CONSULTANT

BURLESQUE BAIT

Not many wives would let their husbands go fishing if they knew a strip teaser was a part of the trip.

Or that the angler might get involved with a belly dancer.

The strip teaser in mind is actually a long piece of skin which has been removed from the belly of a fish and used as bait to catch another fish.

Although strip fishing is a long-established technique, it's not used much today except in saltwater where a strip bait will be trolled to attract billfish.

But when jigged or retrieved with a dancing action in fresh water, it's a highly seductive technique which will take many kinds of gamefish including bass, pike, walleye, trout and crappie.

Cutting a belly strip bait correctly is important, say the fishing experts at Mercury outboards.

They recommend you begin at the point where the gill covers meet under the fish. The skin in this v-shaped area is tough, and a strip taken from here will last a long time.

Use a sharp knife to cut through the skin and flesh, then slide the blade toward the tail until a strip several inches long, and about a half-inch wide, is obtained.

To fish the bait, punch a 2/0 or 4/0 hook through the toughest part of the skin and position the strip in the bight of the hook so that it streams back.

Attach a strong shock leader and cast it into likely cover.

Work the bait as though it were a crippled minnow, imparting lots of action and making it dance and shimmy through the water.

KINGS PARK

Bob at **Mae's Way Fishing Station** reports good to excellent blue and porgy fishing. Roger Olsen and Jerry Koliner caught 380 lbs. of big porgies on skimmers and sand worms off of Eaton's Neck. Arnold Discorsi and John Bishop trolled 11 bluefish off Short Beach on Rebel plugs Sunday night. Paul Albarano and Joe Orlando weighed in bluefish of 8½ and 9¾ lbs. Sunday morning. Grandparents Sal and Sophie, father Paul and son Keith Bruno took 2 dozen bluefish on popping plugs off of the Mansions.

HUNTINGTON

Capt. Don of the **Ever Ready** tells us that the bluefishing in Huntington area is still tremendous. This Sunday's bottom run from 11 AM to 3 PM has been sold out. All other runs will sail as scheduled.

Ronnie's Bait and Tackle reports that blues to 17 lbs. and bass to 15 lbs., are being taken on wire line bucktails at buoy 13. Weakfish are hitting worms and blues taking bunker in the hole off Centerport Harbor. Porgy fishing remains good at Marshall Field and Eaton's Neck. Snappers are in the bay and harbors and are being taken on shiners.

NORTH SHORE WEST END

★ BEST BET ★ BLACKS

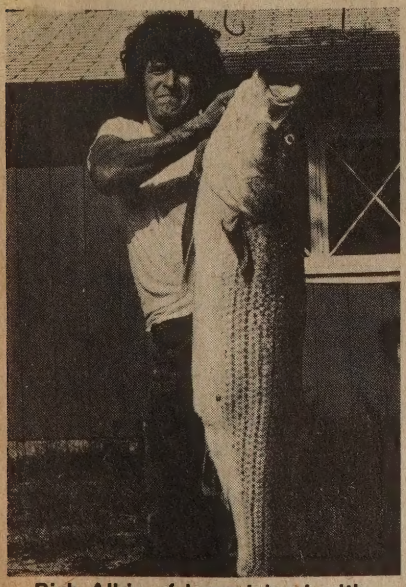
BAYVILLE

Norm's Bait and Tackle reports good bluefish action at daybreak in Oyster Bay Harbor. These fish are running from 10-15 lbs. and are taking bunker chunks. Smaller fish in the 3-5 lb. range are being trolled on umbrellas at the lighthouse during the day. Snappers in the area are getting bigger and are starting to hit small poppers. Bluefish in the 3-5 lb. range are being diamond jigged off Lloyd's Neck. Blackfish up to 6 lbs. are hitting fiddlers at Center Island Beach and Stayley's Beach.

CITY ISLAND

The Ebb Tide reports that during the week they had very good catches of humpback porgies on sand worms fishing off Stanford and Norwalk. Things slowed down a little on the weekend, as they usually do. The boat is looking for an experienced first mate. See phone number in ad if interested.

Jack's Tackle Shop reported the snapper blues are now ten inches long and eating everything in sight. Most of last week, the big blues were up by New Rochelle. On at least one day they had the bunker trapped up in the creek by Camerons. Any Starace continues to do well with school bass.



Rich Albin of Long Island with this 51 lb. bass taken on a 7" blue Rebel in the race at Cape Cod. Subscriber Club photo.

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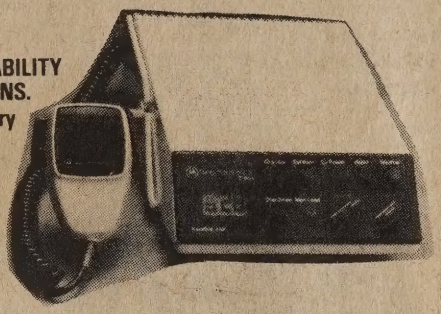

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